

# FRUITVITAIL

9



**Hiro Mashima** Creator of Rave Master



# FAIRY TAIL

9



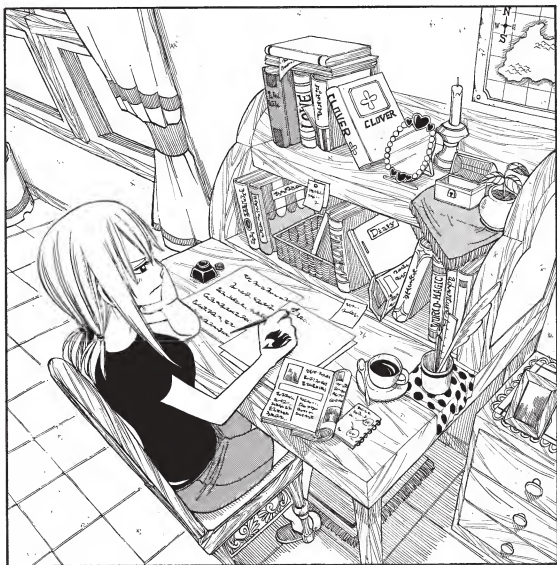
HIRO MASHIMA



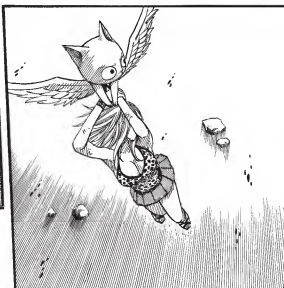
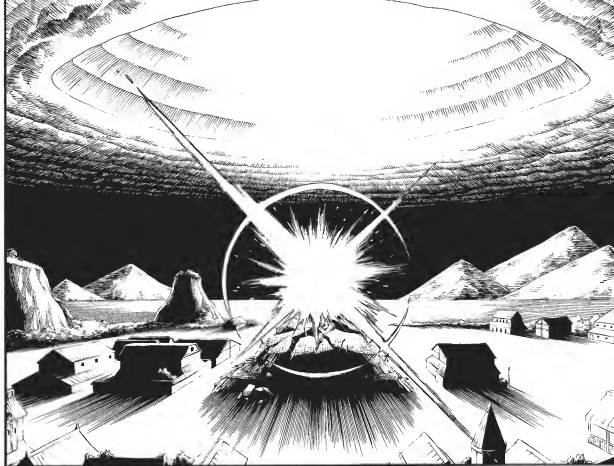
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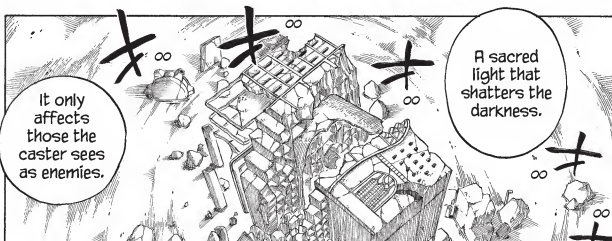
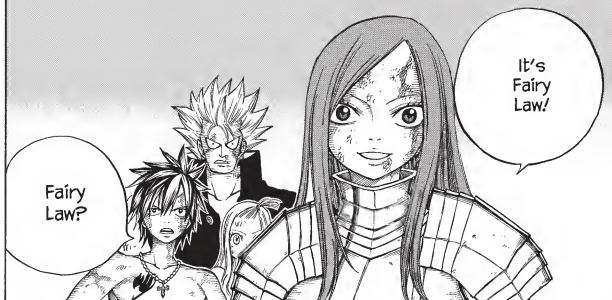
# FAIRY TAIL



## Chapter 66: Like-Minded









You will  
never come  
near Fairy  
Tail again.

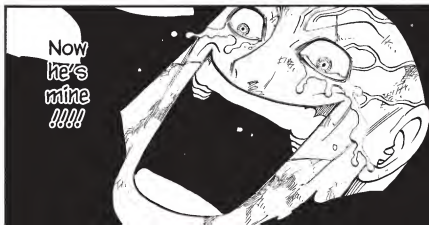
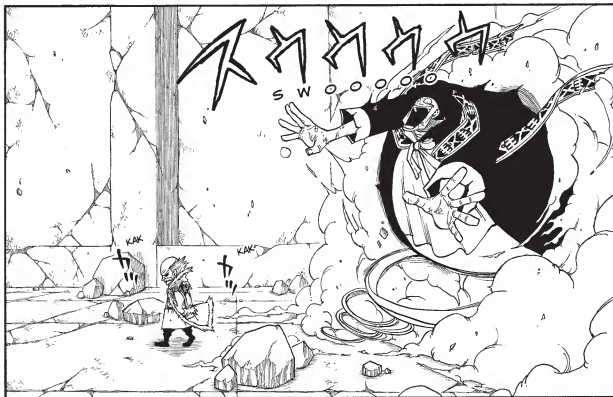




From now on,  
you will have  
to worry about  
your safety  
constantly.

Both  
of us  
will.

Now that  
you're a bungler  
of such epic  
proportions, the  
Council can't  
overlook your  
actions  
anymore.



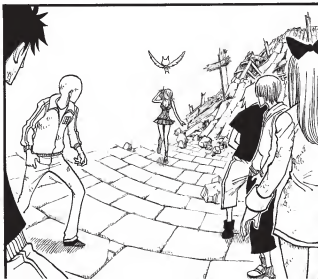
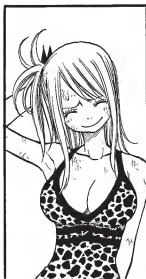
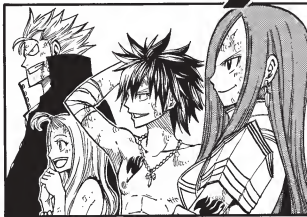
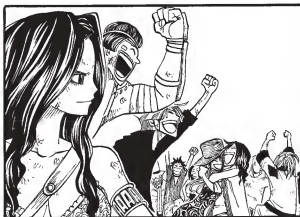
Now  
he's  
mine  
!!!!

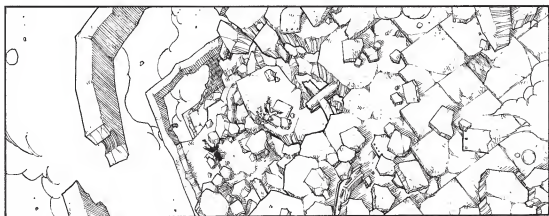
It's just  
like the last  
time!!! He  
doesn't  
even see me  
coming!!!

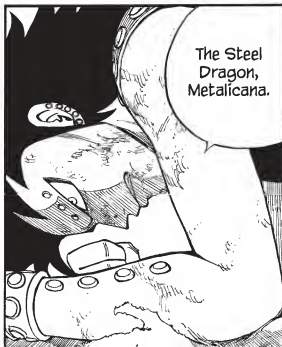


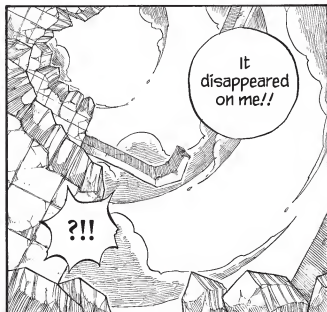














***Gone,  
without  
even  
saying a  
word!***

One day,  
Metalicana  
just wasn't  
there  
anymore!



Are you saying  
that you  
know where  
Metalicana is?

Don't be  
stupid!!! The  
one I'm looking for  
is Igneel, the Fire  
Dragon!!!



**!!!!**



H-Hey...

That  
wouldn't be  
seven years ago  
on the seventh  
day of the  
seventh month,  
would it?



Dammit!!  
That stupid,  
selfish...



Why does it have all those sevens in a row?

**How should I know?!!**

Seven years ago... Year 777, on the seventh day of the seventh month... two dragons vanished?



**This is our guild!!! You're the one who should go!!!**

If you're going, then hurry up and get gone.



Humph... Well, it makes no difference to me.



We're both dragon slayers, right?



Why should I?!! Don't give me that crap!!!

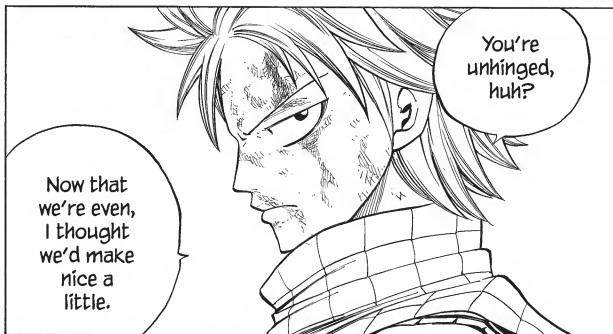
If you learn anything about Igneel, tell me, okay?





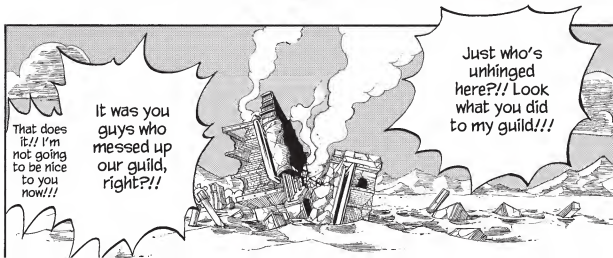
*So wash  
your neck  
and get  
ready for  
Gajeel's  
axe!!!!*

*The next  
time we  
meet, you're  
dead!!!  
Got  
that?!!!*



Now that  
we're even,  
I thought  
we'd make  
nice a  
little.

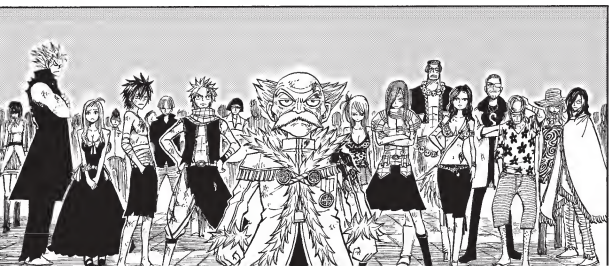
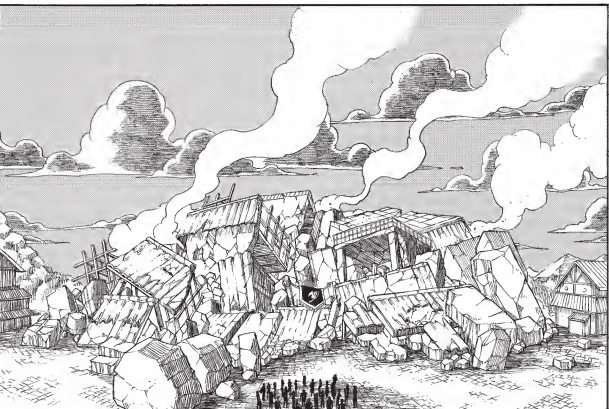
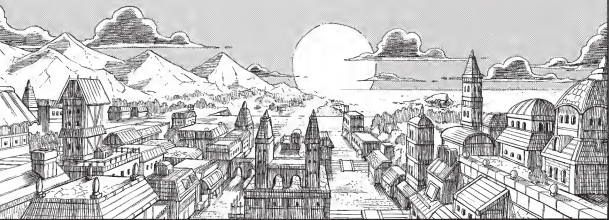
You're  
unhinged,  
huh?

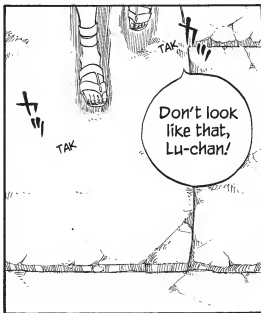
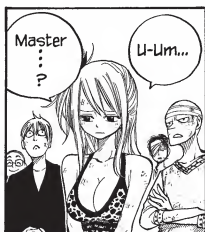


That does  
it!! I'm  
not going  
to be nice  
to you  
now!!!

It was you  
guys who  
messed up  
our guild,  
right?!!

Just who's  
unhinged  
here?!! Look  
what you did  
to my guild!!!





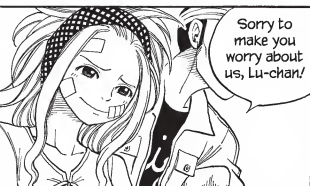


...it can  
always be  
built up  
again!

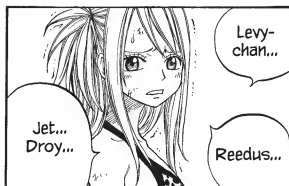
Sure, it  
left the  
guild in  
ruins, but...

Not after  
everybody  
pitched in  
and won this  
fight!

Oui!



Sorry to  
make you  
worry about  
us, Lu-chan!



Levy-  
chan...

Jet...  
Droy...

Reedus...

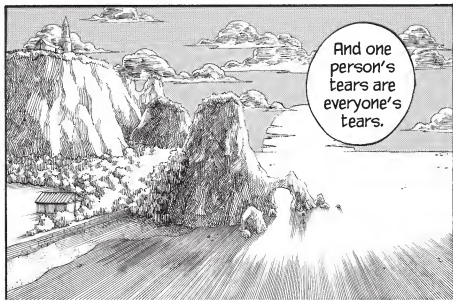
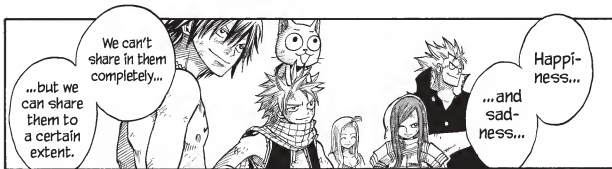
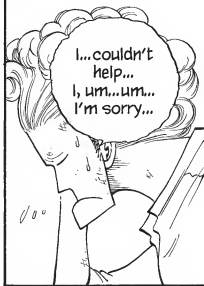


I heard all  
about it. Not  
a person here  
blames any of  
this on you.



No...

This  
is all  
my...







So lift  
your  
head up.



You  
should  
already  
know how  
everybody  
feels.



There's  
no need  
for you  
to feel  
guilt.



You are a  
member of  
Fairy Tail  
after all.



HIC

SNIFF

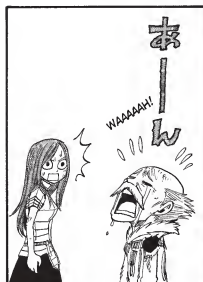
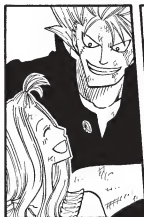
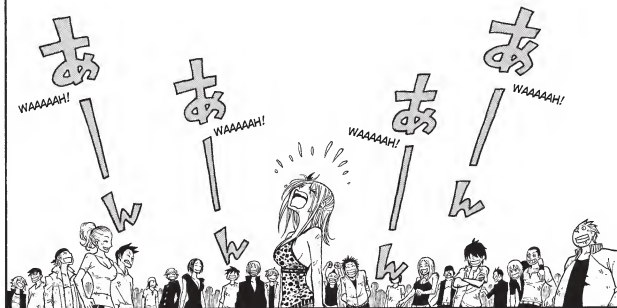
HIC



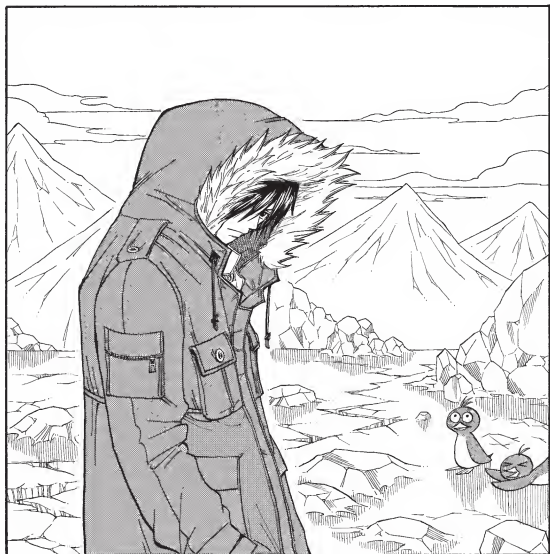
PLIP

PLIP





# FAIRY TAIL

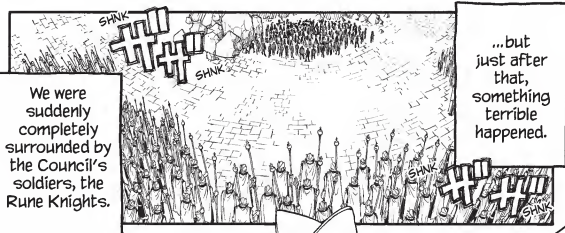


## Chapter 67: My Decision

It had  
been a  
week  
since the  
battle  
with  
Phantom.

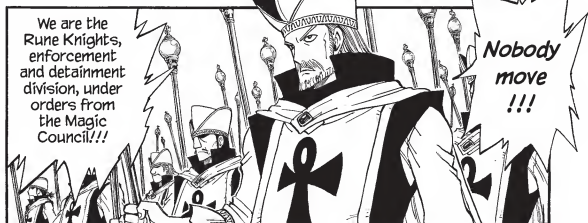
And we'd  
finally  
found a  
bit of calm  
to start  
heading  
forward...

KANG  
トン  
TENK  
テン  
カン  
DONK  
TENK  
テン  
カン  
DONK



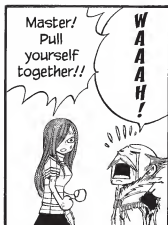
We were  
suddenly  
completely  
surrounded by  
the Council's  
soldiers, the  
Rune Knights.

...but  
just after  
that,  
something  
terrible  
happened.



We are the  
Rune Knights,  
enforcement  
and detainment  
division, under  
orders from  
the Magic  
Council!!!

**Nobody  
move  
!!!**



Master!  
Pull  
yourself  
together!!

W  
A  
A  
A  
H!



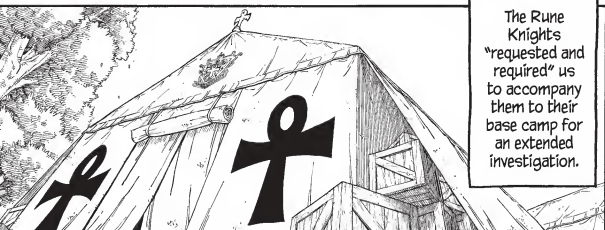
Don't even  
try, Natsu.  
They'll catch  
you anyway.

EVERYBODY,  
RUN!!!



So they  
sniffed  
us out  
already?!!

Aw,  
man!

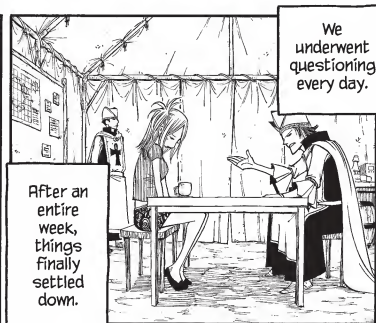


The Rune  
Knights  
"requested and  
required" us  
to accompany  
them to their  
base camp for  
an extended  
investigation.



Fairy Tail's  
disposition  
would be  
taken up by  
the Council  
and decided  
at a later  
date.

.....  
Sigh.



We  
underwent  
questioning  
every day.

After an  
entire  
week,  
things  
finally  
settled  
down.

All the  
evidence  
and witness  
reports  
indicate  
Phantom  
instigated  
the attack.

SKRCH  
SKRCH

SKRCH  
SKRCH  
SKRCH  
SKRCH

But you  
don't need  
to worry,  
Mama.

I doubt  
they can  
judge  
us too  
harshly.

It's... just  
a bruise.  
It won't  
be there  
permanently,  
right?

CHIK  
The  
Pain  
Cous. that is a

Oww  
...

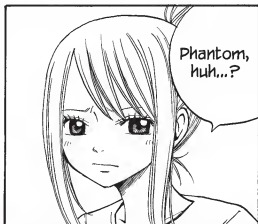
CHEEP

CHEEP

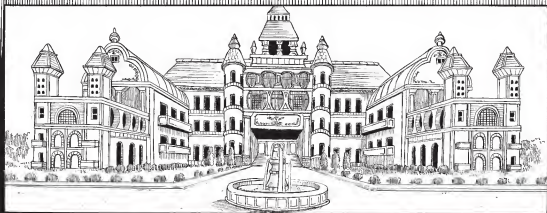


I know  
how he is,  
but I didn't  
think that  
even he  
would go  
this far...

Say, Mama...  
Was this whole  
thing really being  
manipulated  
behind the  
scenes by him?



Phantom,  
huh...?



I'm  
working!  
Leave me  
be!

Um...

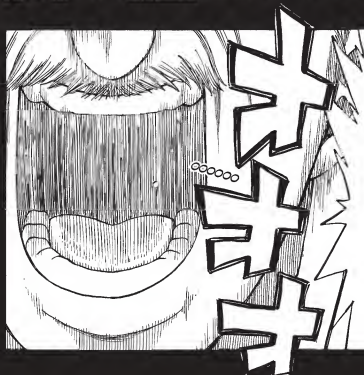


Hey, Papa!  
I made you  
a rice ball!

TAH

DAH



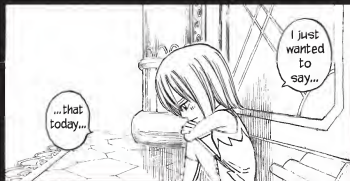


*Can't you understand when I tell you you're in the way, Lucy?!!!*

Now,  
go  
!!!!



Cooking is the  
exclusive domain  
of the chef!!!! If  
you have so much  
free time, then  
use it to study  
politics!!!!



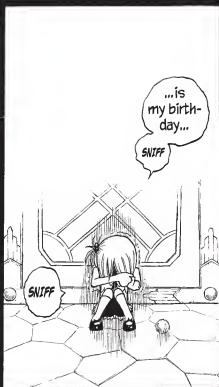
...that  
today...

I just  
wanted  
to  
say...



He would  
do it,  
wouldn't  
he?

Without  
a second  
thought.



...is  
my birth-  
day...

SNIFF

SNIFF



He never even once showed any interest in me.

But why now? Why does he want me back all of a sudden?

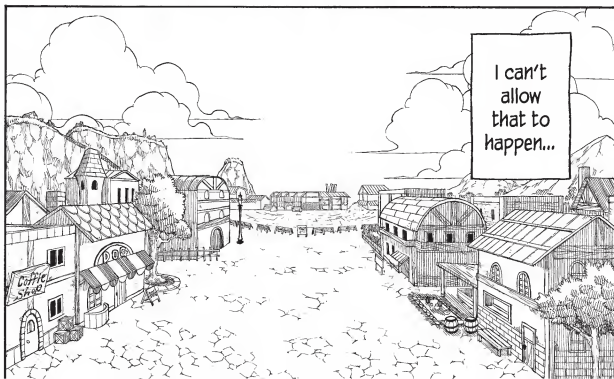


The very same thing, using the power of his money...

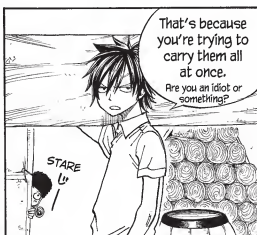
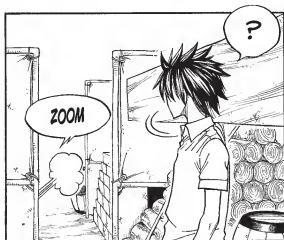
Mama... He'd do it again, wouldn't he?

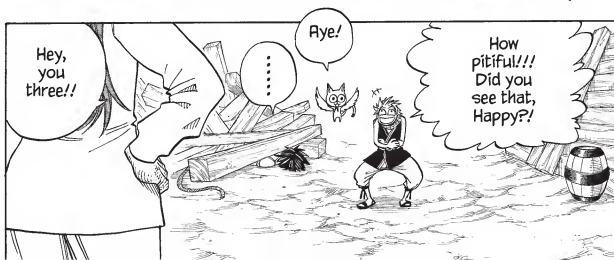
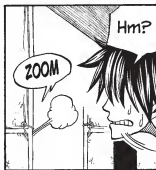
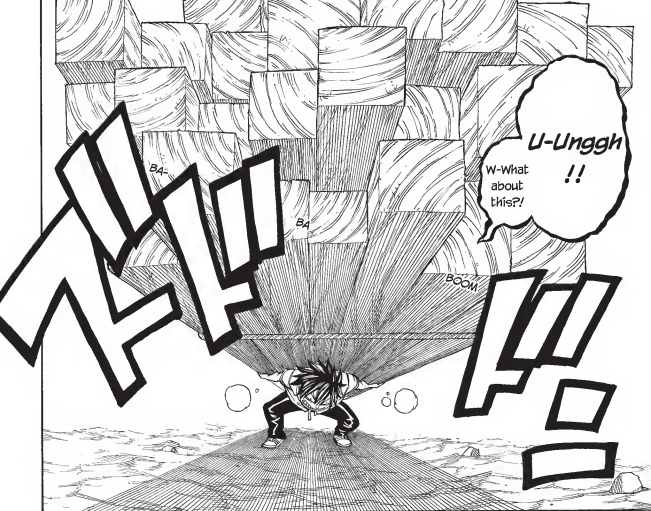


It caused a lot of problems for Fairy Tail.



I can't allow that to happen...







Oh! Over there.

Mr. Foreman, where does this lumber get placed?

What's with the "Mr. Foreman" stuff?

**ドカタァン**

We have to get this guild rebuilt as soon as possible!

If you've time to play around, then carry these beams instead!!

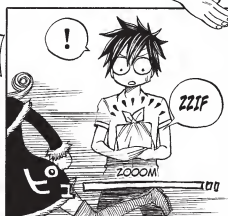
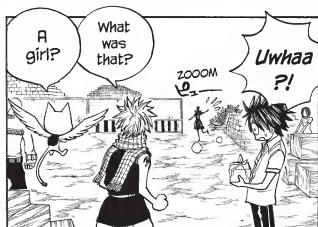
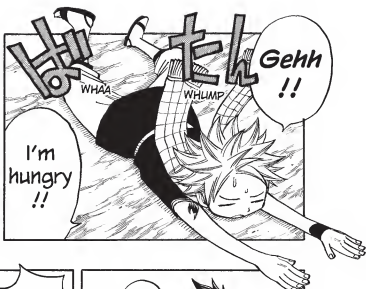
Erza's really enthusiastic about this, huh?

Requipped into work clothes.

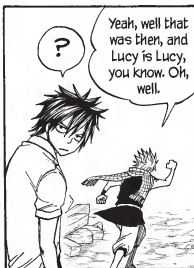
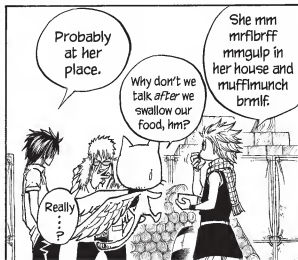
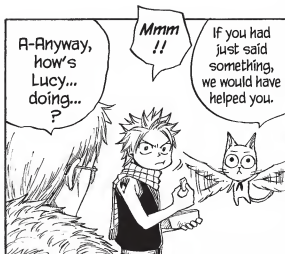
But there's no way anybody can construct a building based on plans like this!!!

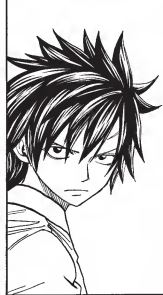
Perspective is a technique that artists of old used—but it's simply an optical illusion! Real art shouldn't be constricted by such things!

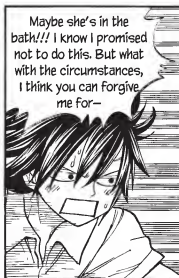
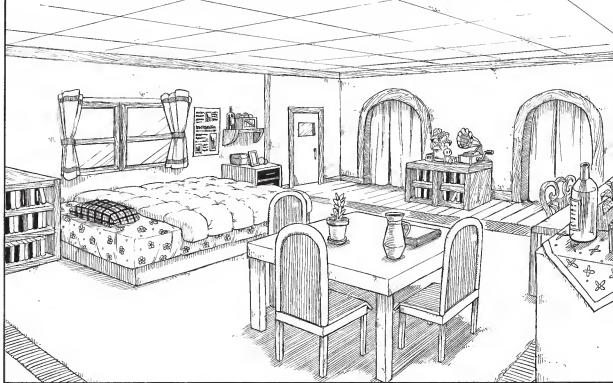


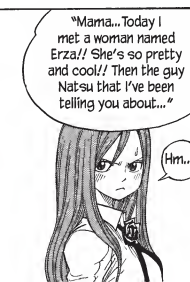
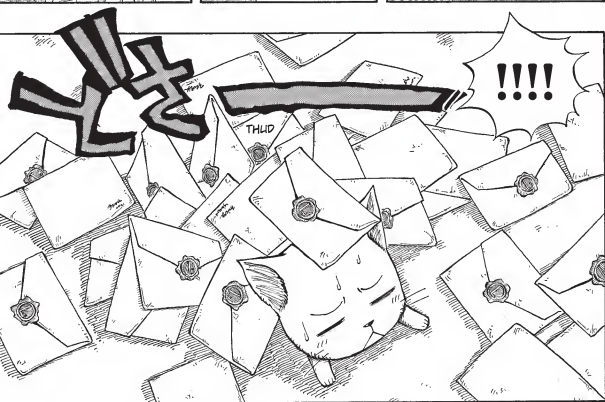




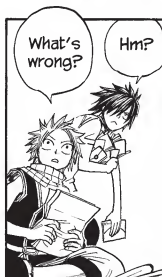
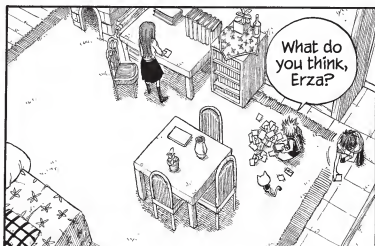
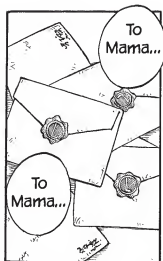
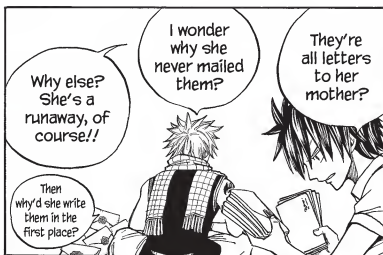


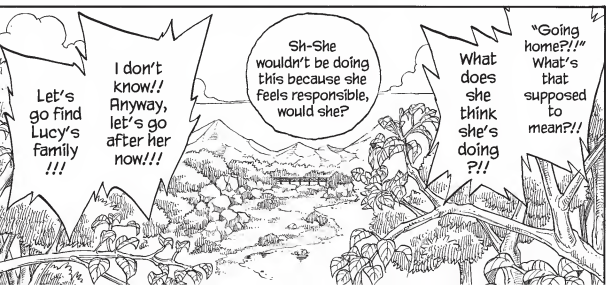
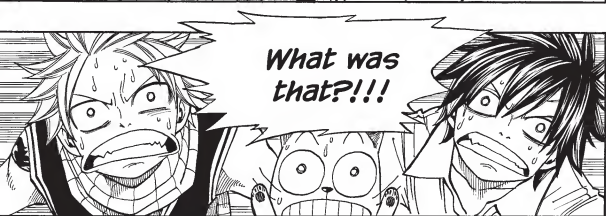
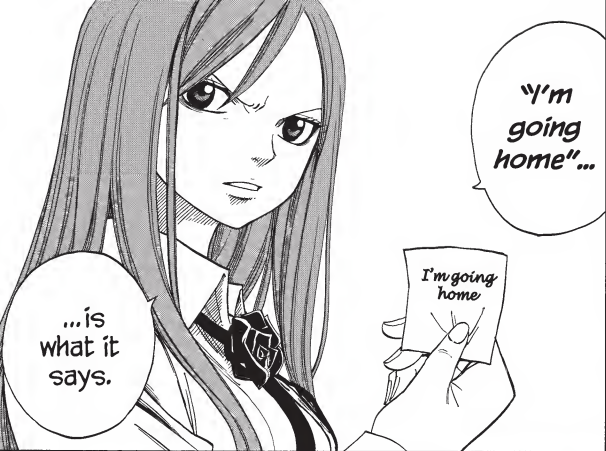


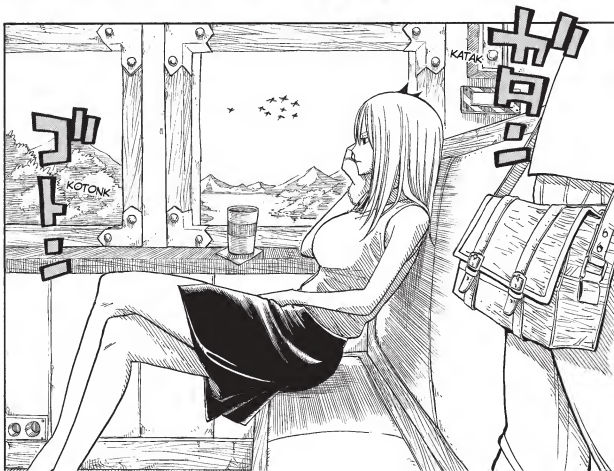
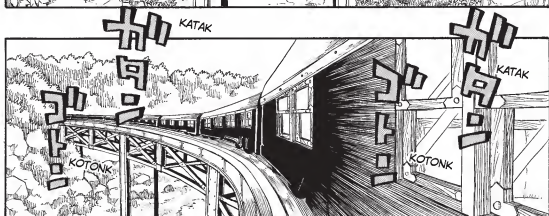
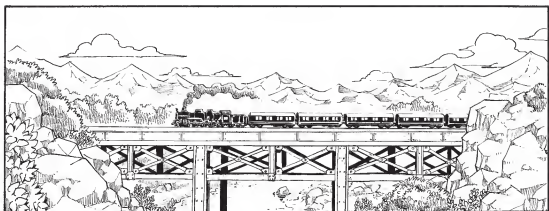










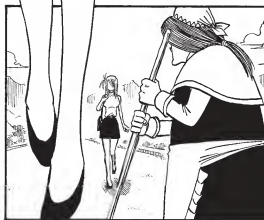
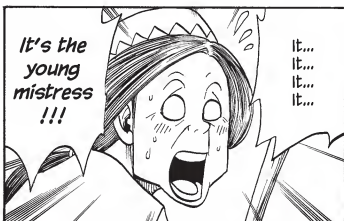
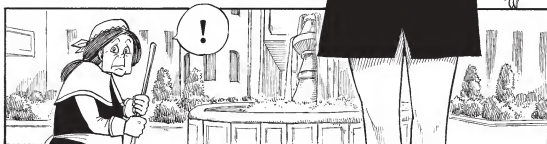
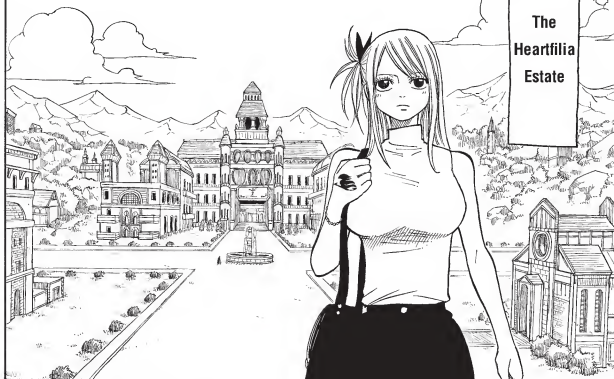


# FAIRY TAIL



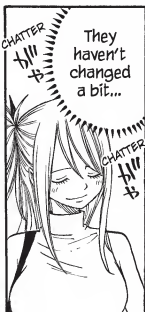
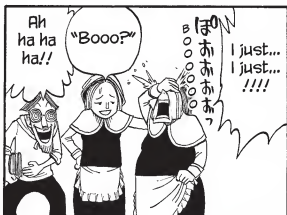
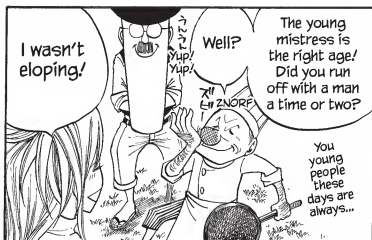
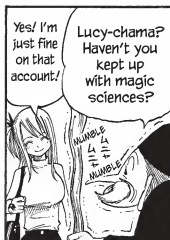
**Chapter 68: Goodbye**

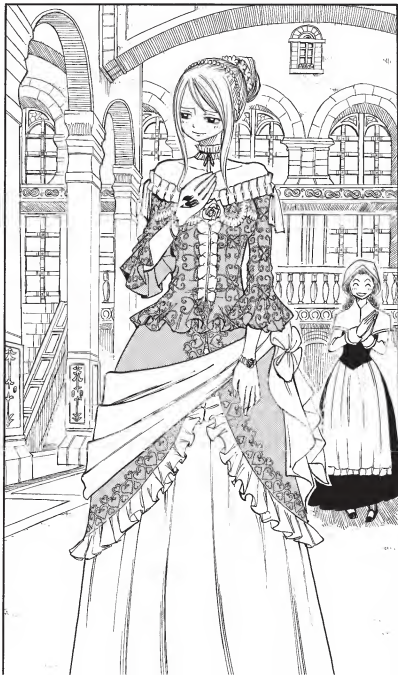
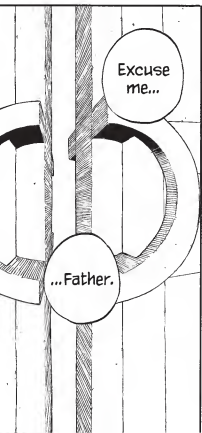
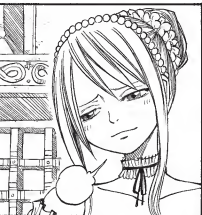
The  
Heartfilia  
Estate

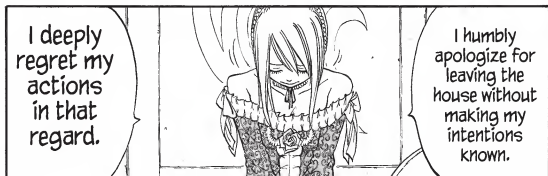


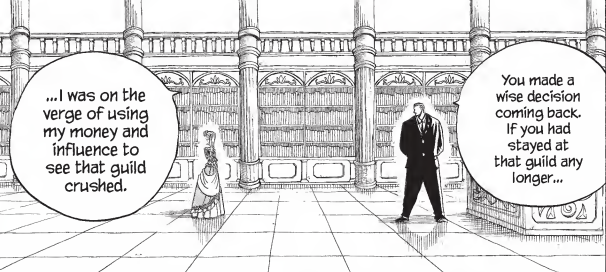












...I was on the verge of using my money and influence to see that guild crushed.

You made a wise decision coming back. If you had stayed at that guild any longer...



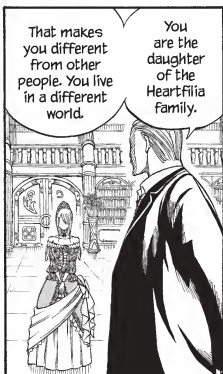
I assume you will take this as a lesson about how your willful actions can bring trouble to those around you.

So you've finally grown up, have you, Lucy?



There is only one reason I have brought you back here.

Your wedding arrangements have been made.



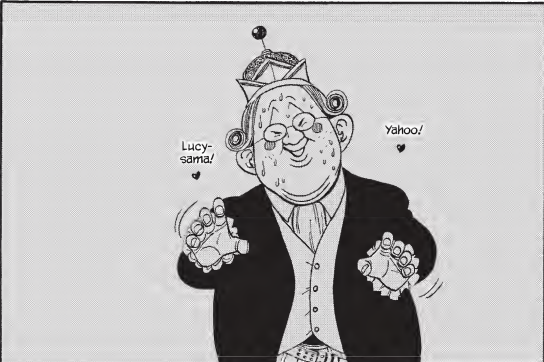
That makes you different from other people. You live in a different world.

You are the daughter of the Heartfilia family.



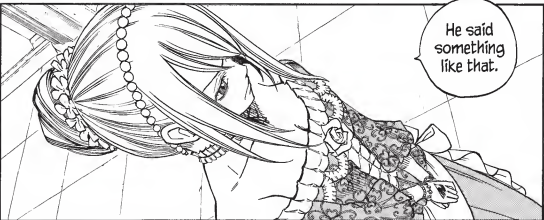
I hear he  
said to you  
that he's  
had his eye  
on you.

Duke  
Sawarr, son  
and heir to  
the Junelle  
family.

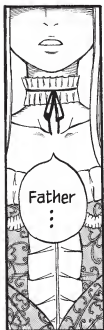
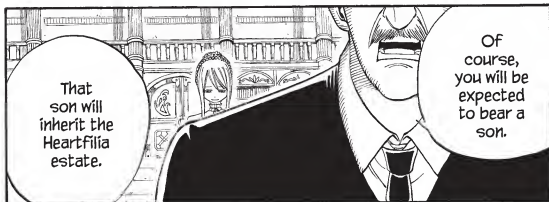
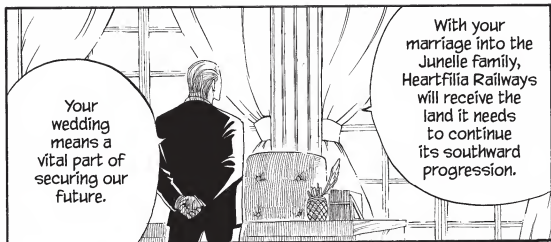


Lucy-  
sama!

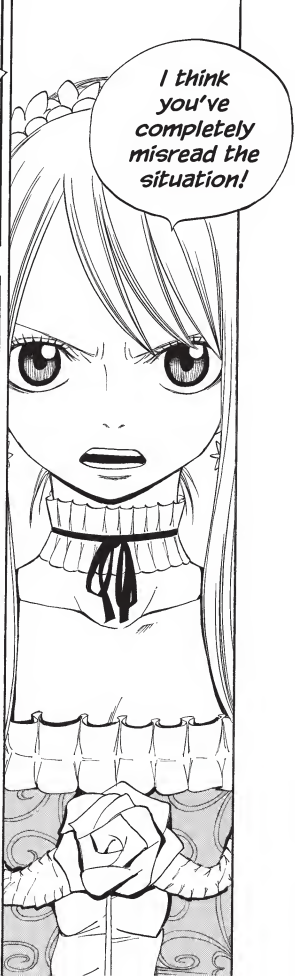
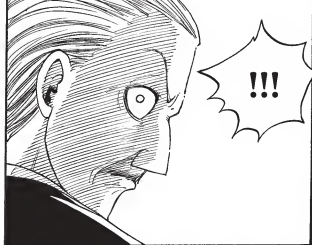
Yahoo!

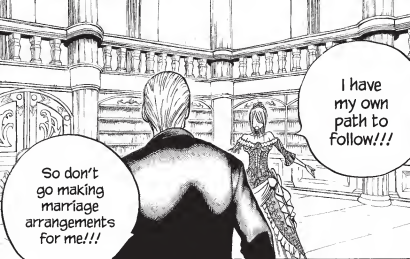


He said  
something  
like that.



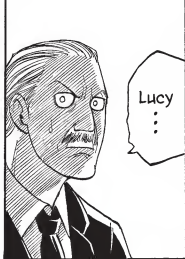




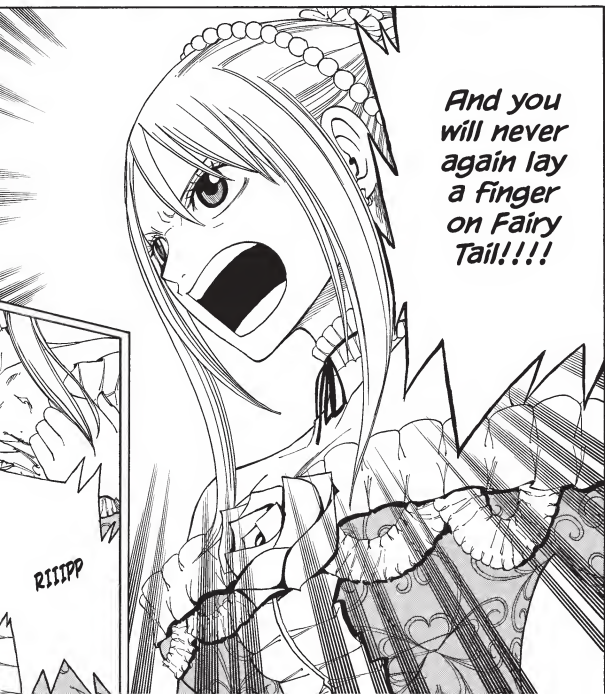


So don't  
go making  
marriage  
arrangements  
for me!!!

I have  
my own  
path to  
follow!!!



Lucy  
:  
:



*And you  
will never  
again lay  
a finger  
on Fairy  
Tail!!!!*

RIIIPP

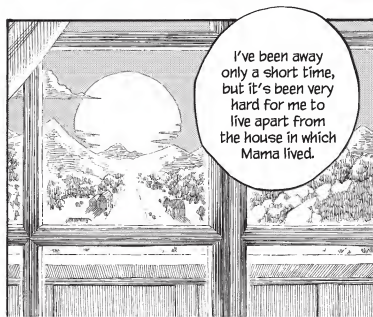
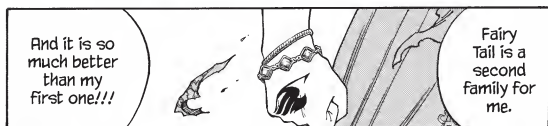
If it hadn't  
been for  
what you did,  
perhaps we  
may have been  
able to talk  
things over.

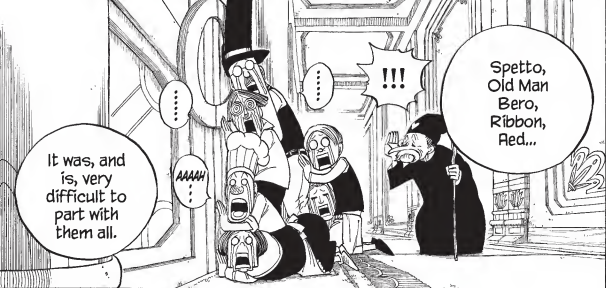
*But it's  
too late  
now!!!!  
Now, you've  
hurt my  
friends!!!!*

*...you will  
make an  
enemy of  
me... and  
the entire  
guild!!!*

*Because  
the next  
time you  
threaten  
Fairy Tail...*





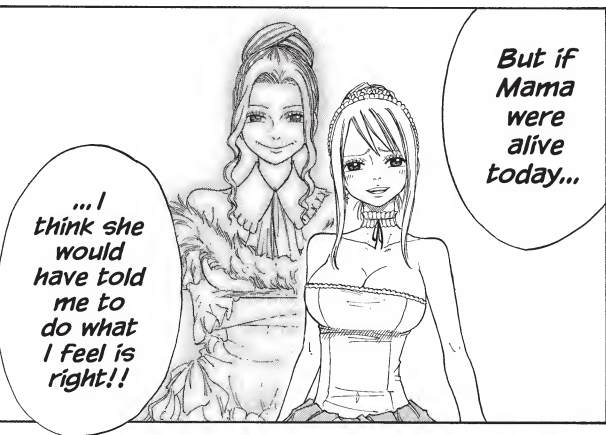


It was, and  
is, very  
difficult to  
part with  
them all.

AAAAH  
...

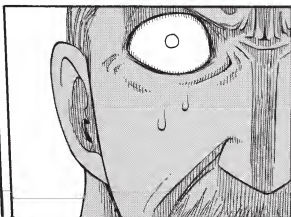
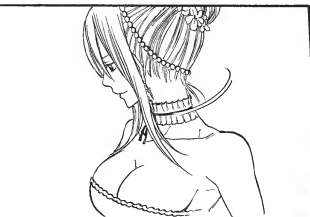
!!!

Spetto,  
Old Man  
Bero,  
Ribbon,  
Aed...

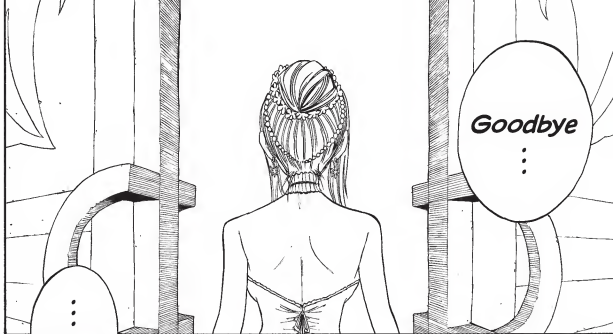


... I  
think she  
would  
have told  
me to  
do what  
I feel is  
right!!

*But if  
Mama  
were  
alive  
today...*

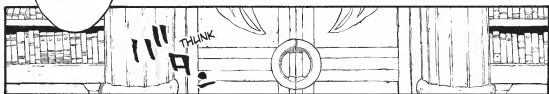






⋮  
*Father.*

*Goodbye*  
⋮



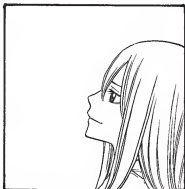
THINK

THINK  
A

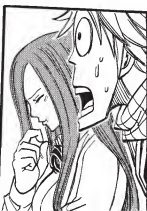
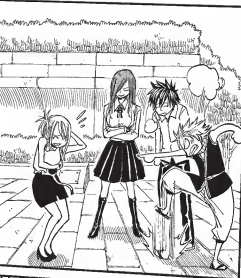
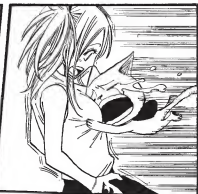
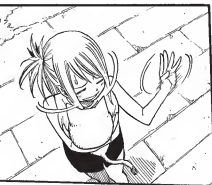


Layla Heartfilia

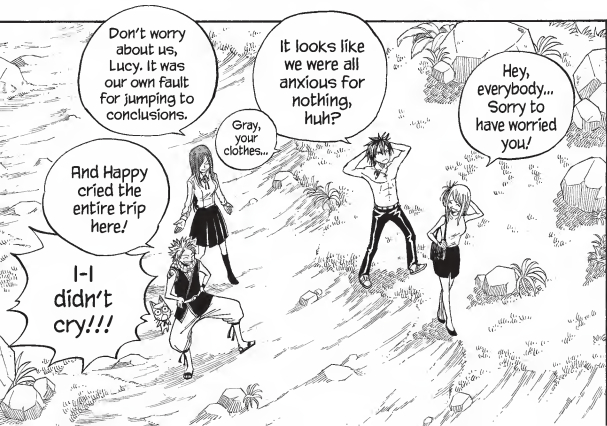
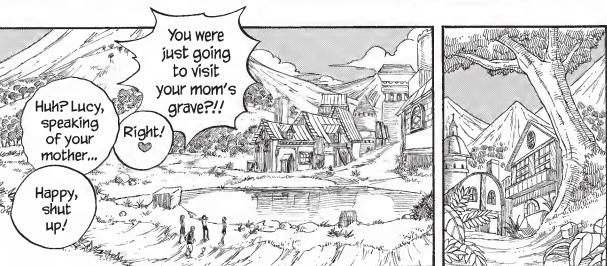
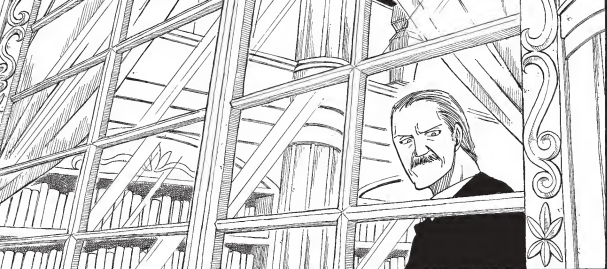
Year 748-Year 777

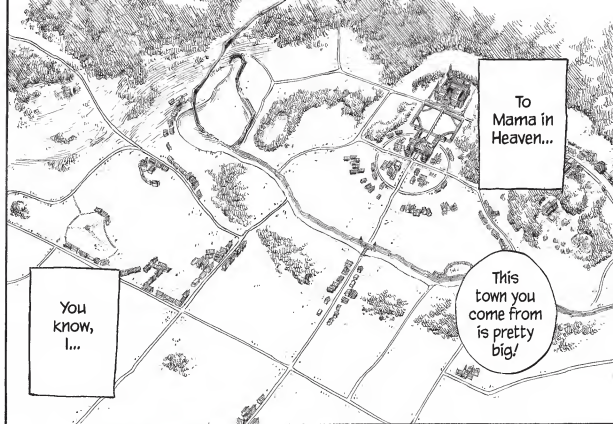












To  
Mama in  
Heaven...

You  
know,  
I...

This  
town you  
come from  
is pretty  
big!



Ah...No!  
This is just  
the garden.  
Everything from  
here to beyond  
that mountain  
is my family's  
place.



After all,  
Fairy Tail  
is a part  
of me  
now.

Such  
a blue  
sky...

Oh no!!  
Commander  
Erza is  
broken,  
too!!!

Natsu and  
Gray have  
gone bye-bye.  
Commander Erza,  
could you say a  
word, please?

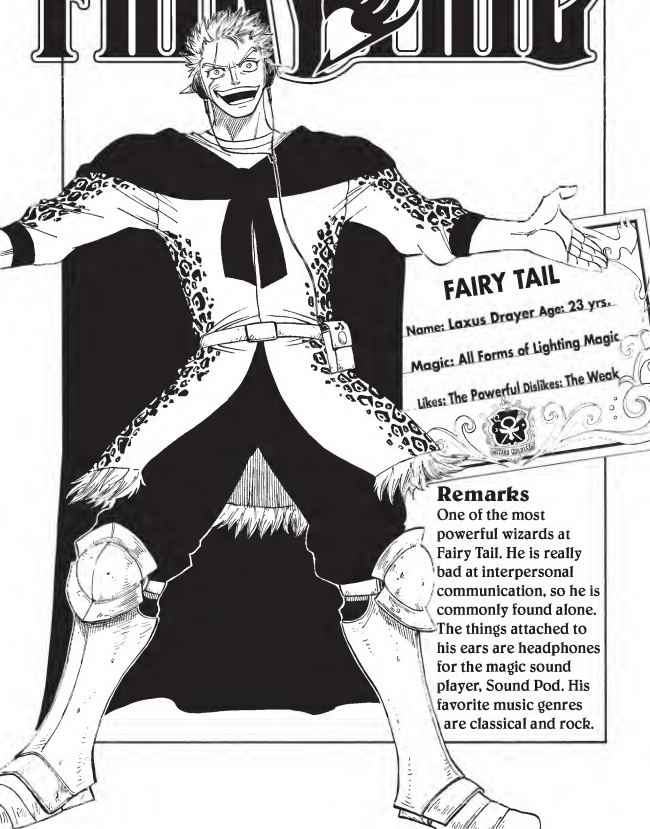
And she  
brags with  
such a  
casual look  
on her  
face!

The  
young  
mistress  
has  
arrived  
!!

Huh?  
What's  
with you  
guys?

...I don't  
think I  
could keep  
going  
without  
everybody's  
help.

# FAIRY TAIL



## FAIRY TAIL

Name: Laxus Drayer Age: 23 yrs.

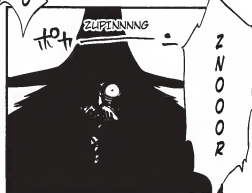
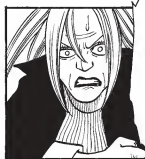
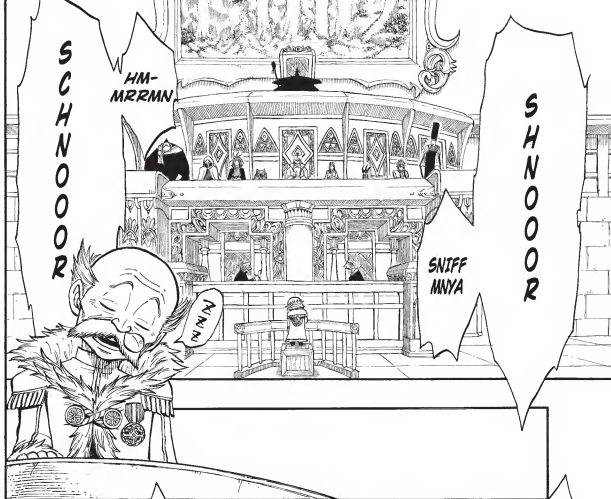
Magic: All Forms of Lighting Magic

Likes: The Powerful Dislikes: The Weak



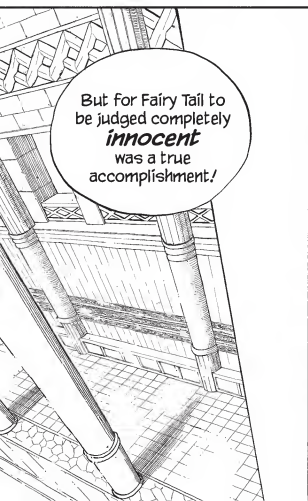
## Remarks

One of the most powerful wizards at Fairy Tail. He is really bad at interpersonal communication, so he is commonly found alone. The things attached to his ears are headphones for the magic sound player, Sound Pod. His favorite music genres are classical and rock.

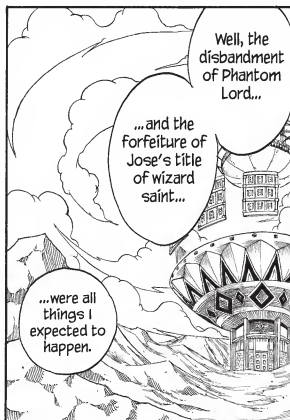


## Chapter 69: Next Generation





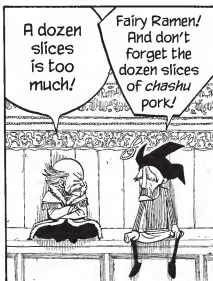
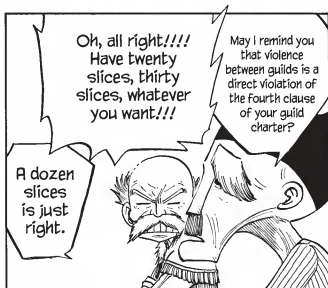
But for Fairy Tail to  
be judged completely  
***innocent***  
was a true  
accomplishment!



Well, the  
disbandment  
of Phantom  
Lord...

...and the  
forfeiture of  
Jose's title  
of wizard  
saint...

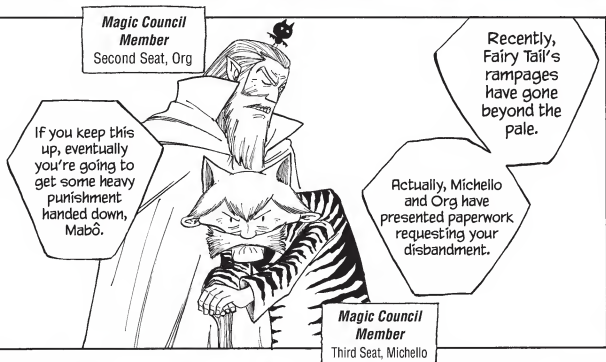
...were all  
things I  
expected to  
happen.





Mabô, don't overdo it anymore, hm?

Well... Thanks. You really helped me.



**Magic Council Member**  
Second Seat, Org

If you keep this up, eventually you're going to get some heavy punishment handed down, Mabô.

Recently, Fairy Tail's rampages have gone beyond the pale.

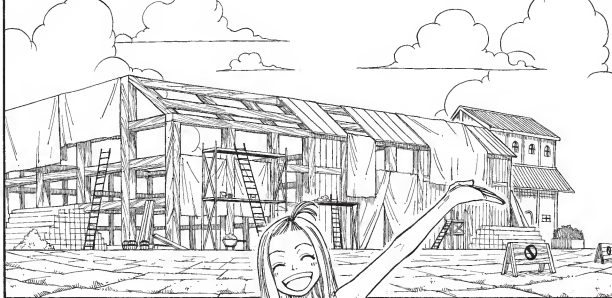
Actually, Michello and Org have presented paperwork requesting your disbandment.

**Magic Council Member**  
Third Seat, Michello



...for your own health.

You should already be retired...



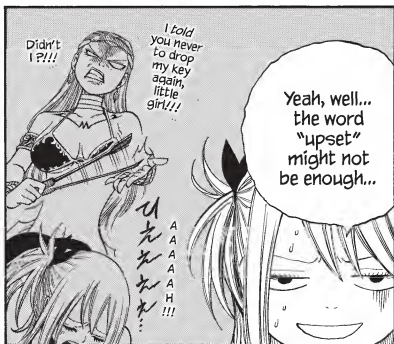
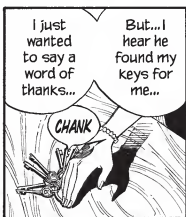
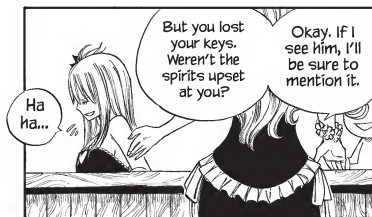
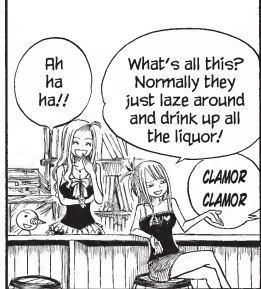
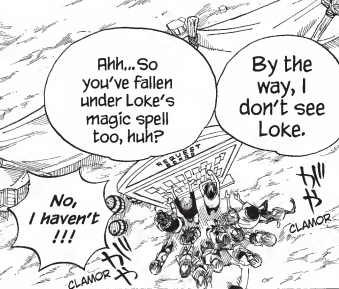
This counter  
is just a  
temporary  
setup, but let's  
bring lots of  
work to the  
guild!!!

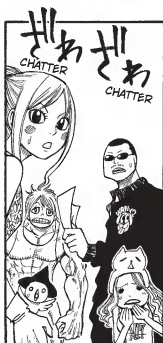
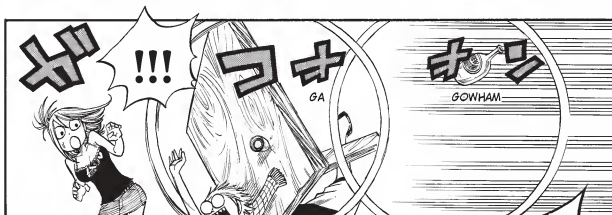
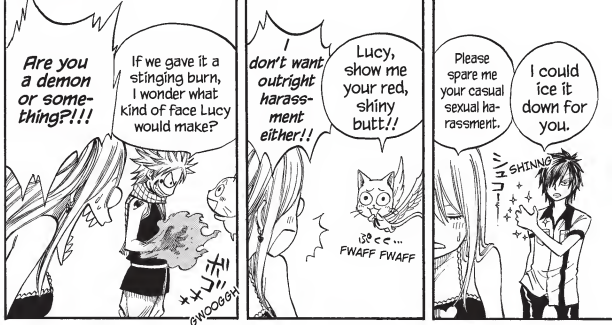
Everybody!!!  
From today on,  
we will start to  
take on jobs  
again!!!



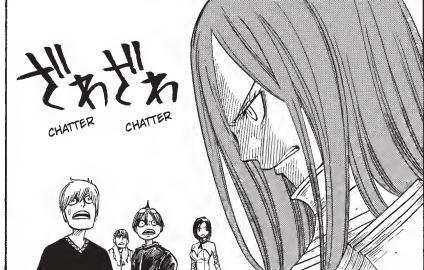
**Jobs  
!!!  
Jobs  
!!!**

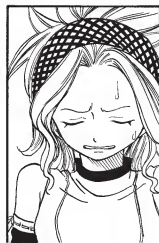
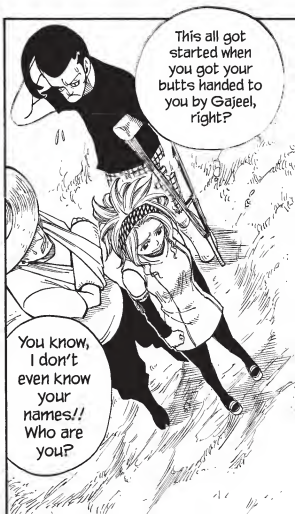
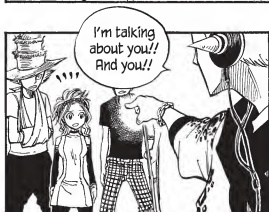
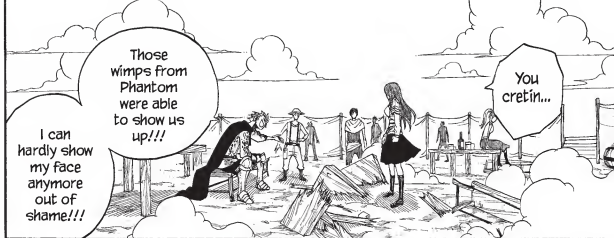
**y e a h h h h h  
!!!!**

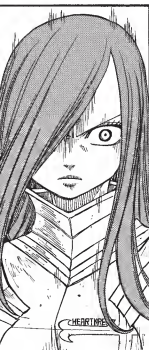
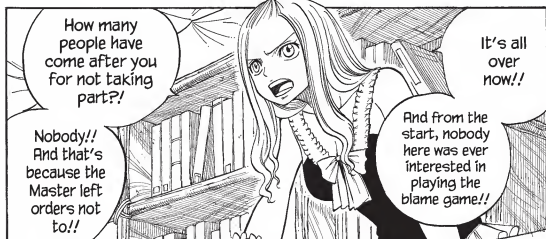


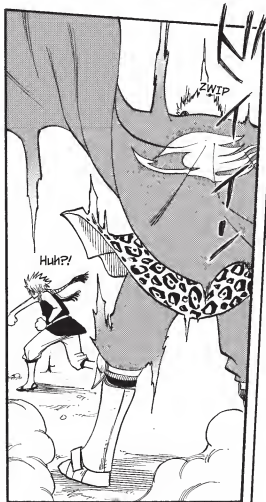
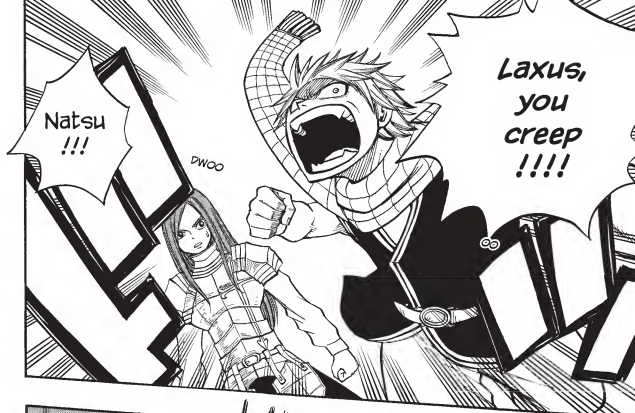








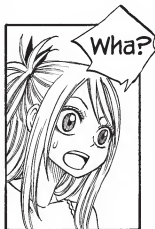






Ah ha  
ha ha!!  
What kind of  
fight would it  
be when you  
can't even  
touch me?!!

Lexus!!!  
Come  
on and  
fight  
me, you  
heartless  
creep!!!!



Wha?



The  
weaklings  
and anybody  
who tries  
to oppose  
me—every  
last one!!!!

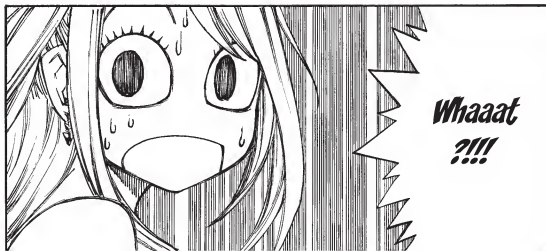
When I  
inherit the  
guild, I'm  
going to clean  
out all of the  
weaklings!!!!



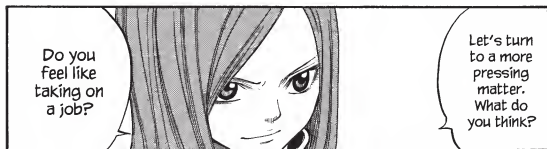
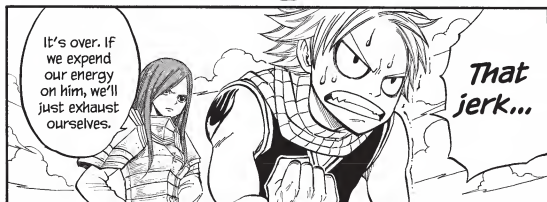
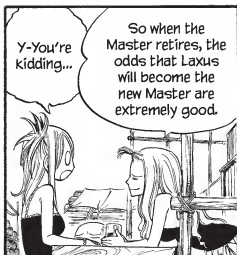
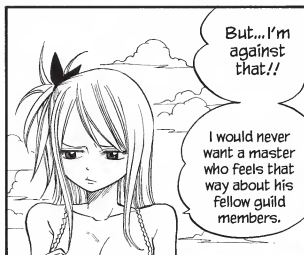
It'll be  
the most  
powerful  
in history,  
and  
nobody will  
ever think  
of giving  
us any  
crap!!!!

This  
guild will  
be the  
strongest  
guild  
there  
is!!!!













You  
guys  
are  
huge!!!

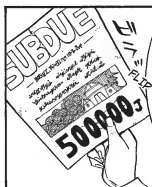
Th-  
That's  
true,  
huh...?

Well, if she  
brought out  
Aquarius, I  
doubt I  
could win  
against  
that.

Um,  
Lucy??  
On the  
greatest  
team??

I  
like  
it!!!

The official  
formation of  
Fairy Tail's  
greatest  
team!!!

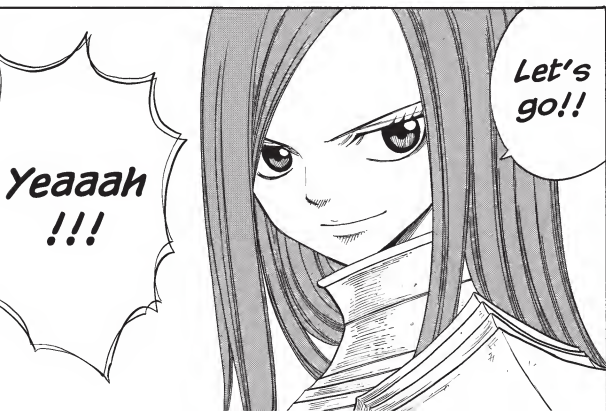


Very well. Here's  
our first job!!!  
We're to go  
and take down  
a secret magic  
fraternity in the  
castle town of  
Lupinus!!!

Any  
com-  
plaints?

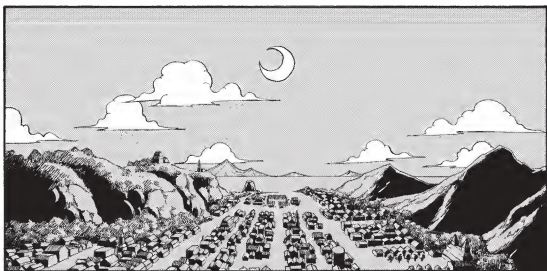
No!!!  
We're over-  
joyed!!!

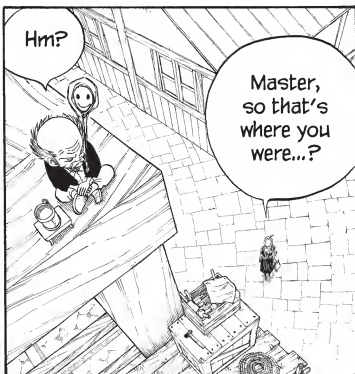
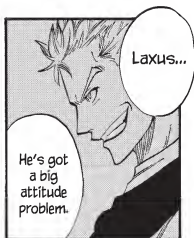
Y-You  
mean with  
him...?

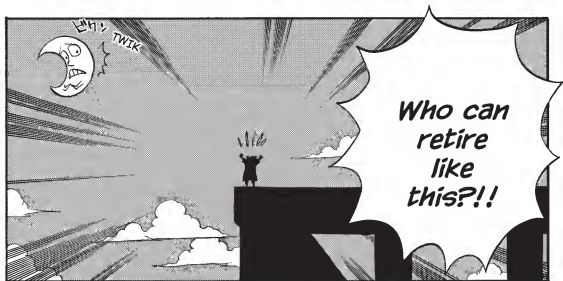
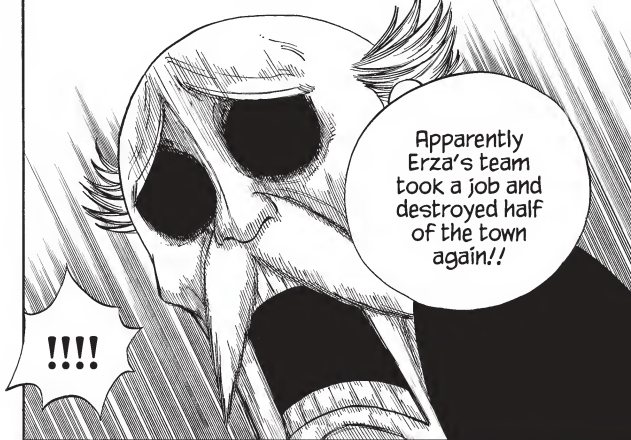


Yeaah  
!!!

Let's  
go!!

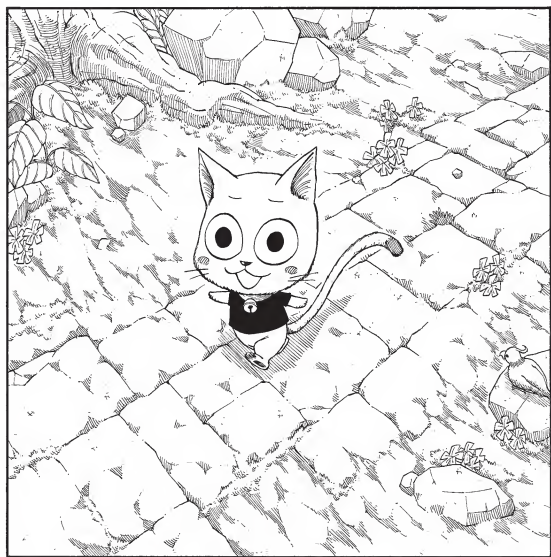




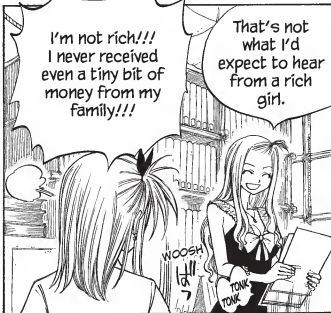
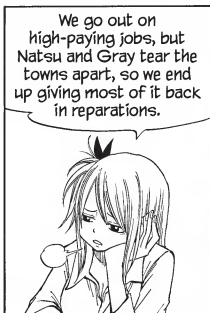


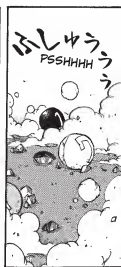
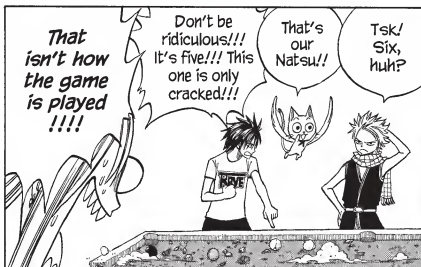
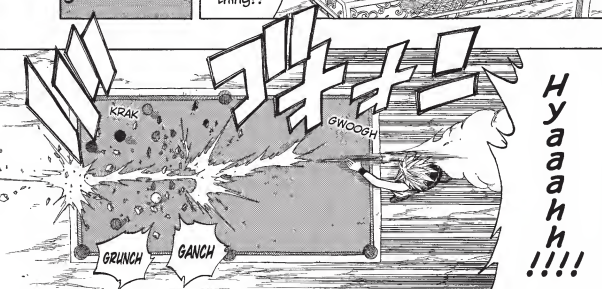
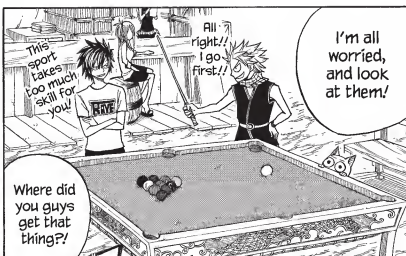


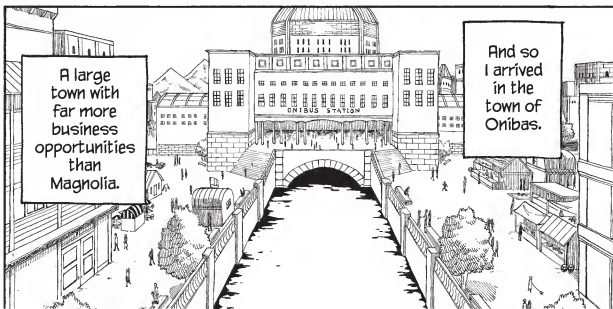
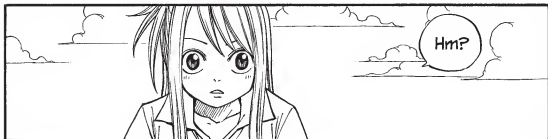
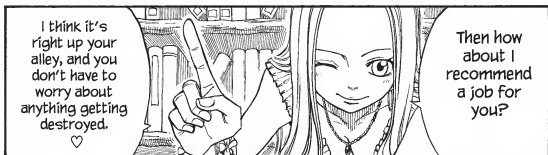
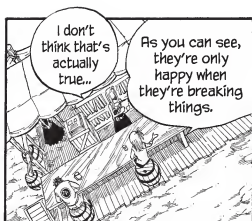
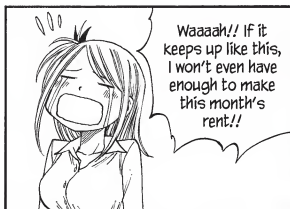
# FAIRY TAIL

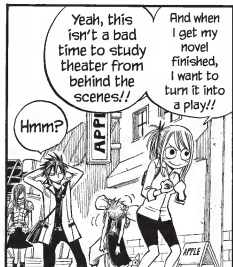
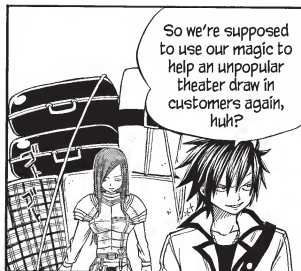


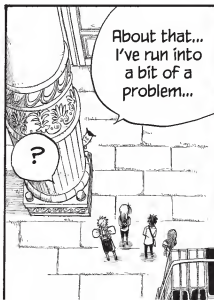
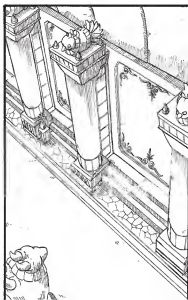
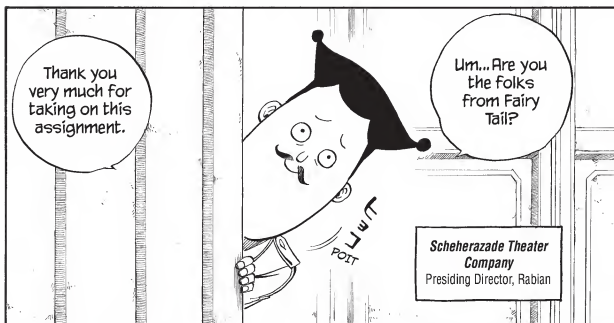
## Chapter 70: Frederick & Yandérica













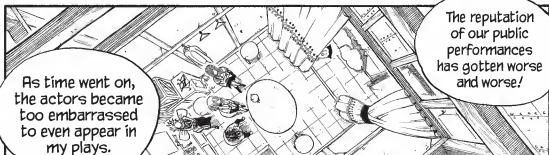


Yes, thank  
you very  
much.

Thanks  
for  
what?!!



**Whaa?!!**  
**All of your**  
**actors have**  
**run out on**  
**you?!!**



As time went on,  
the actors became  
too embarrassed  
to even appear in  
my plays.

The reputation  
of our public  
performances  
has gotten worse  
and worse!



And although I'm  
glad you came here,  
I'm afraid there is no  
play to put on, thank  
you very much.



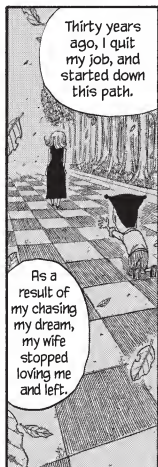
I was  
wondering  
what the  
story would  
be.

Heh!



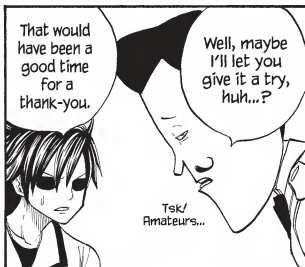
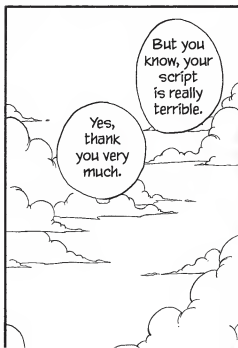
This is the  
only way of  
life left to  
me!!! Thank  
you very  
much!!!

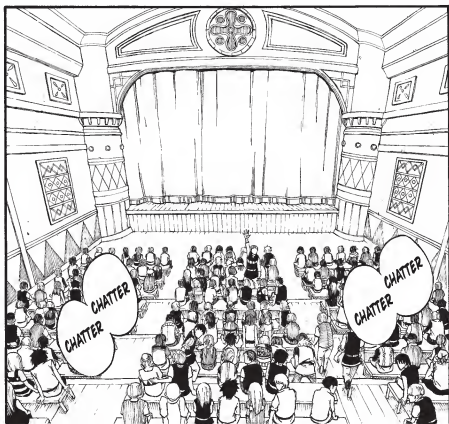
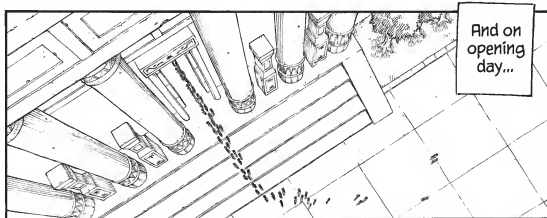
I think you  
need to learn  
the rules  
for thanking  
people.

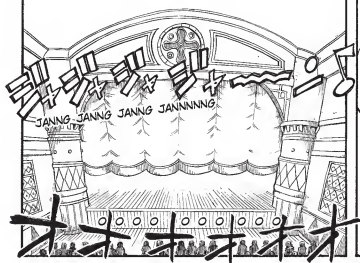


Thirty years  
ago, I quit  
my job, and  
started down  
this path.

As a  
result of  
my chasing  
my dream,  
my wife  
stopped  
loving me  
and left.







Now all we have to do is make this a success!!

Ooooo! ♪  
Lyra's never played in front of this many people before either!!



...in a land far to the west, a prince was struck with tender love for a princess from a rival kingdom...

PULUNK

PULUNK

Long, long, long ago...



PULUNK

The western prince journeyed...  
...to save the princess...

PULUNK

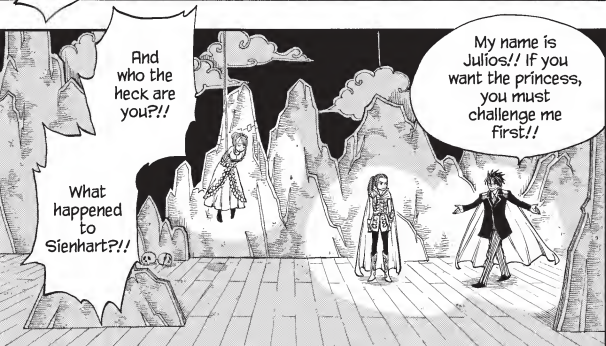
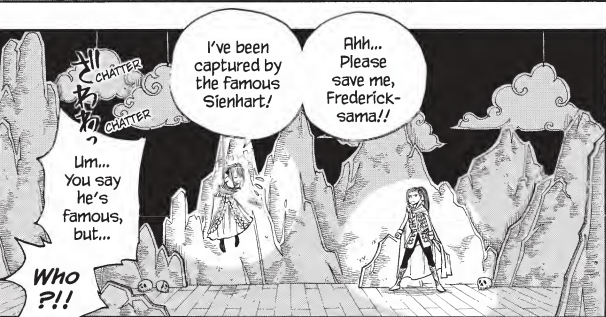
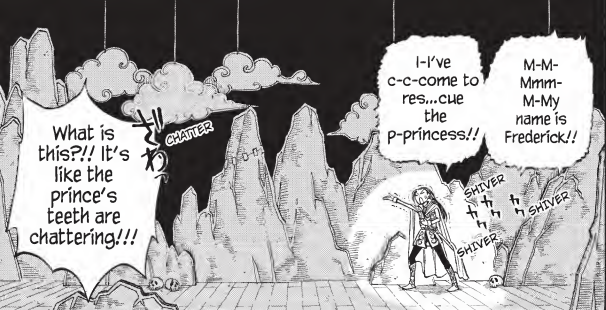
Such a beautiful singing voice!!



It's making me feel all dreamy!!

Huh...?!  
Was the princess taken prisoner or something?

CHATTER





オオオオ

oooooh

Wow  
!!

What  
just  
hap-  
pened  
?!!

You will  
eat my  
sword of  
ice!!!

SHING

オオオオ

Gwaah  
!!!

I don't  
know  
what  
happened,  
but he's  
kind of  
weak,  
huh?

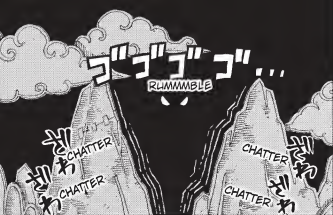
Th-Th-That  
is...nothing!!  
I have...ten  
swords to  
my...name!!

Don't  
you think  
that's  
rushing  
things  
a bit,  
Frederick  
?!!!

P-Princess  
Y-Yanderica...  
we must...  
make lots  
of...children!!

Frederick-  
sama, how  
can I ever  
thank  
you?!





**But you're  
the one  
who called  
the darned  
thing!!!!  
What kind  
of plot  
twist is  
that?!!!**

Y-Y-Yes...  
that is what  
I wish too!!

Now that it's  
come to this,  
we must team  
up to defeat  
it!!!

**And  
the  
guys  
just  
run  
away  
?!!!**

Th-Thanks,  
Princess!!  
I owe you  
one!!

Right  
!!

You two,  
run like  
your tails  
are on  
fire!!

Hey,  
what do  
you think  
you're  
saying,  
Princess  
?!!

I will  
stop the  
dragon!!

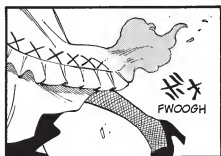
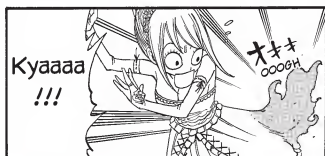
**Gah  
?!!**

**Ah!!**

This huge  
costume  
is...really  
heavy...

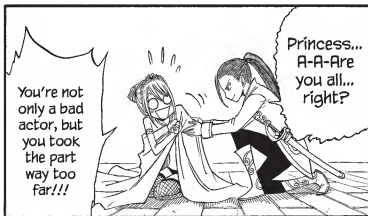
Hey...Don't  
you think this  
play has gone  
overboard...?

This play  
is beyond  
the pale...





EYAAAAA  
!!!!



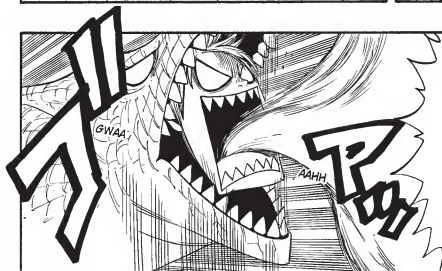
You're not  
only a bad  
actor, but  
you took  
the part  
way too  
far!!!

Princess...  
A-A-Are  
you all...  
right?

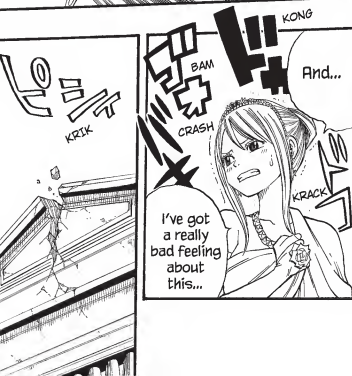


That's  
great,  
Princess!!  
HWEET-  
WHOO

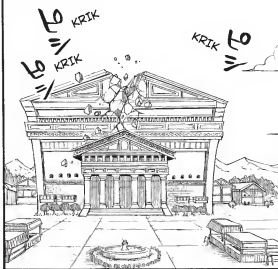
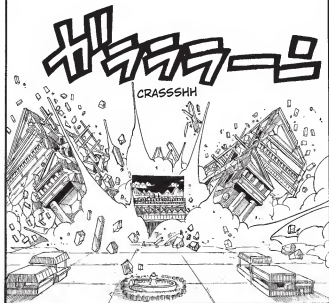
SSS



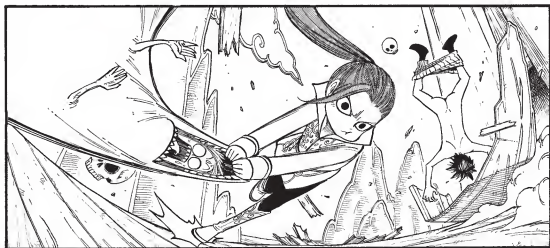
That  
hurt  
!!!!



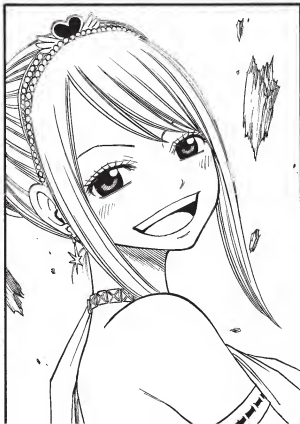








*That  
was  
wonderful  
!!!*

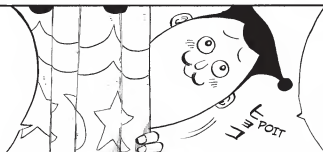




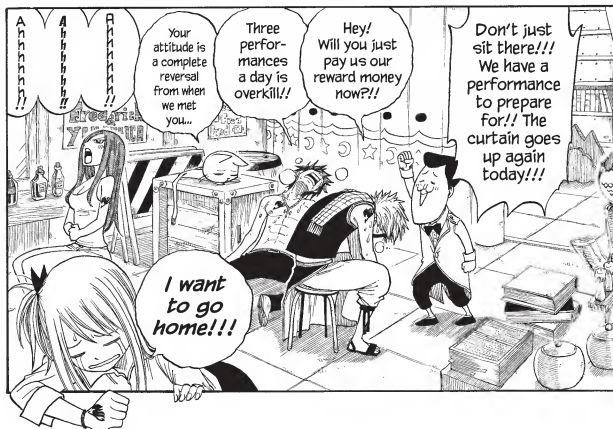
One  
week  
later...



You guys  
are pretty  
good for  
hammy  
actors!!



Gah ha  
ha ha!!!  
I never  
imagined  
this would be  
such a hit!!



A h h h h h h h h!!  
A h h h h h h h h!!  
A h h h h h h h h!!

Your  
attitude is  
a complete  
reversal  
from when  
we met  
you...

Three  
perform-  
ances a  
day is  
overkill!!

Hey!  
Will you just  
pay us our  
reward money  
now?!!

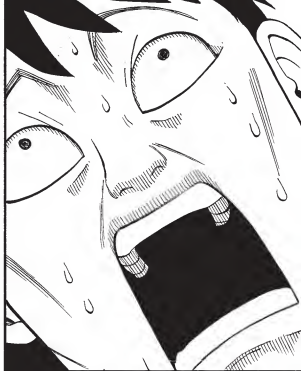
Don't just  
sit there!!!  
We have a  
performance  
to prepare  
for!! The  
curtain goes  
up again  
today!!!

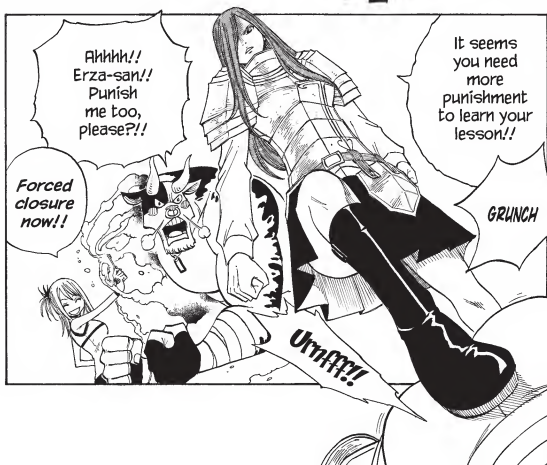
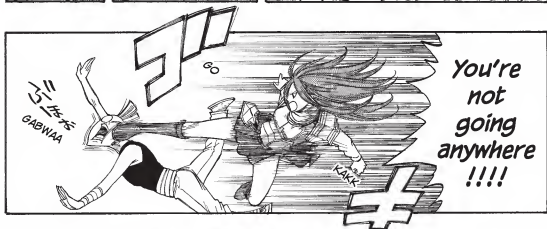
I want  
to go  
home!!!

# FAIRY TAIL



## Chapter 71: A Night in Impatiens







It isn't yours!!  
Don't go taking it without permission !!!

Lucy!!  
Look at this jewel!!

You've destroyed plenty for one case!

Yeah!!  
I didn't destroy nearly as much as I wanted!!!

We took care of this case faster than I expected.



Over there...



Hm?

What are you talking about?! We have to get started on the next job as soon as we can!!!



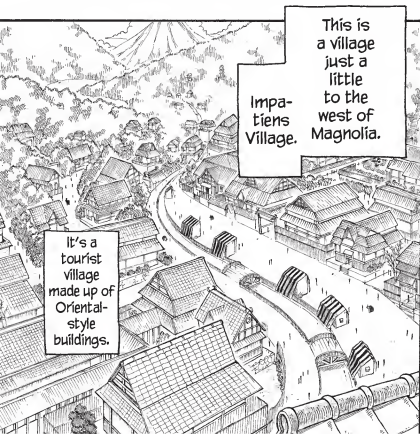
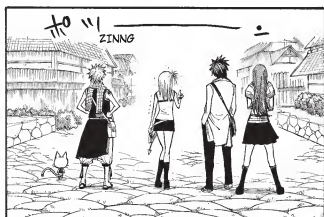
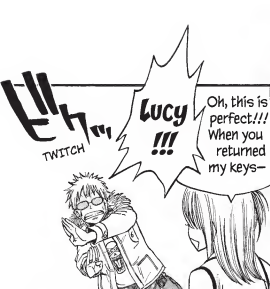
We still have our rooms for one more night. Shall we spend the evening relaxing before heading home?

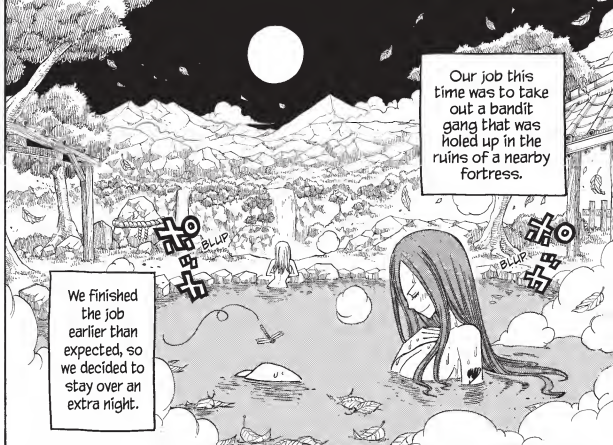


Huh?

Isn't that Loke?

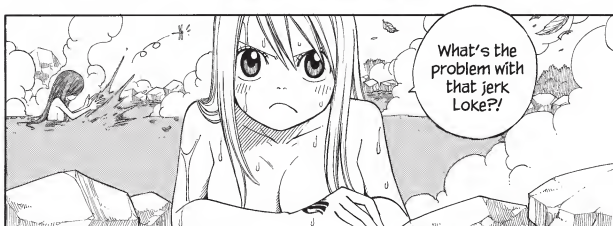




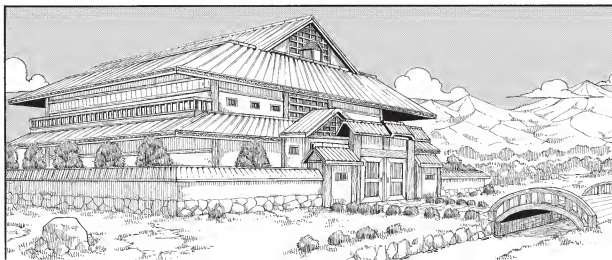


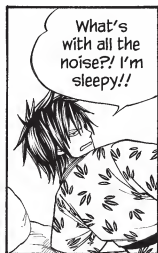
Our job this time was to take out a bandit gang that was holed up in the ruins of a nearby fortress.

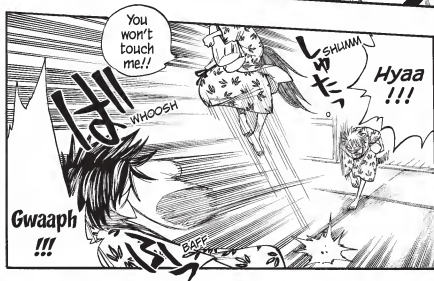
We finished the job earlier than expected, so we decided to stay over an extra night.



What's the problem with that jerk Loke?!

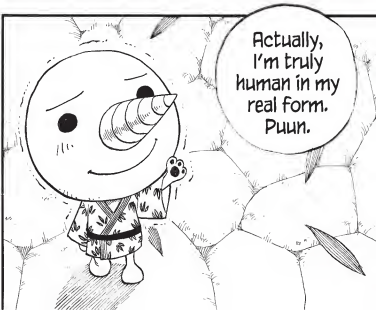
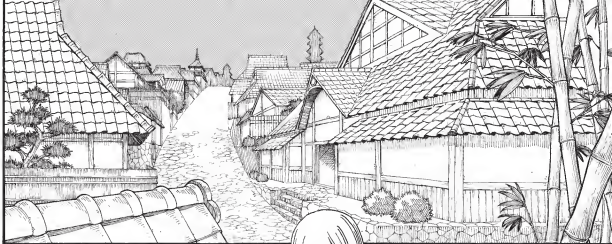














Human?!!  
And... And you  
can talk?!!

Aye!

Aye  
?

Huuh  
?!!!

Tsk! I calculated  
that I could keep you  
fooled for a week  
considering how  
dense you are, Lucy!

Such  
generous  
calculations.

Yes, yes. You can  
stop the stupid  
tricks and come  
out now.

I am the  
servant of the  
hero who bears  
the sacred  
stone. Puun.

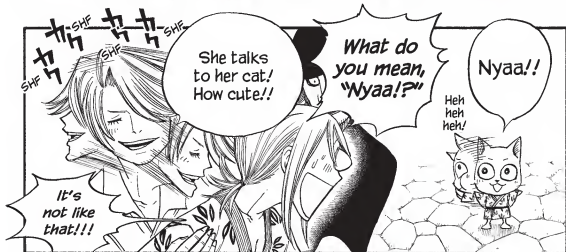
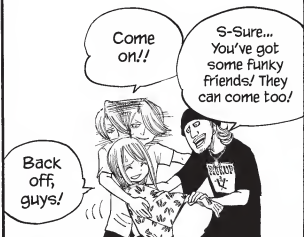
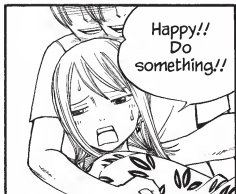
HEH 30  
HEH <

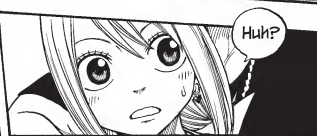
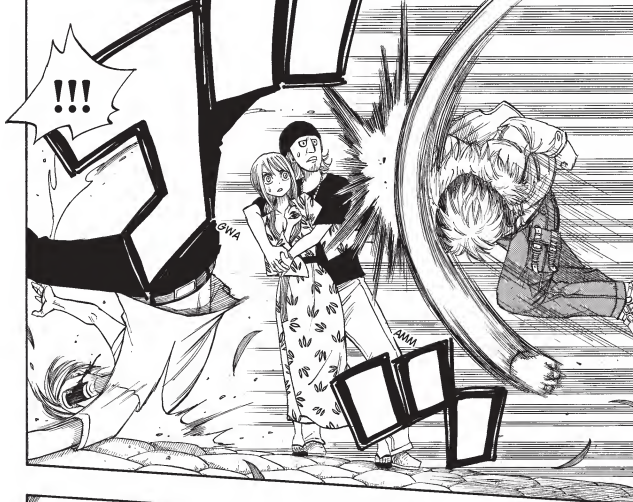
Hi,  
pretty  
girl!

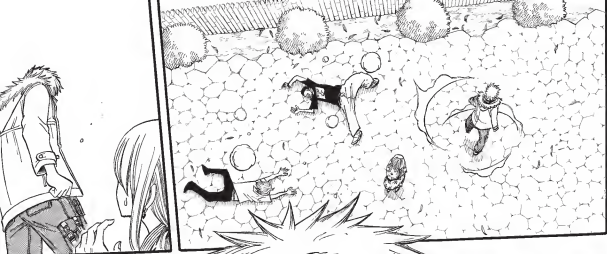
By the way,  
where are  
you going?

With those  
guys having a  
pillow fight, I  
could get hurt.  
So I thought I'd  
go for a walk.









You  
aren't  
hurt, are  
you?



These guys  
are thug  
wizards who  
prey on young  
women.

I'm in the  
middle of a  
job trying to  
round up the  
whole lot of  
them.

Really  
?



For  
what  
?!!

I'm  
sorry!

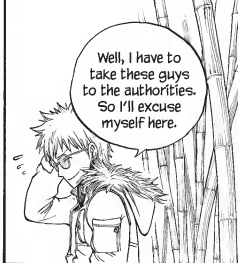
**Loke**  
**!!!**







Um,  
listen ...



Well, I have to  
take these guys  
to the authorities.  
So I'll excuse  
myself here.

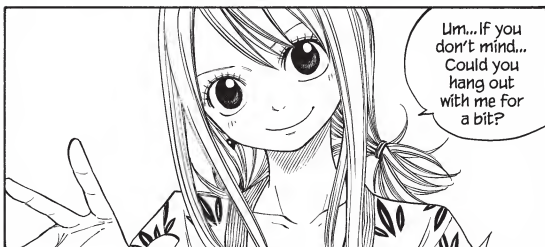


No...  
Don't give  
it a second  
thought.

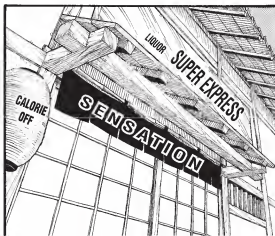


Thanks  
for saving  
me.

Also, you  
found my  
keys, and I  
wanted to...



Um...If you  
don't mind...  
Could you  
hang out  
with me for  
a bit?



SENSATION



It isn't  
like  
that!!

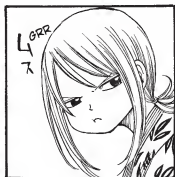
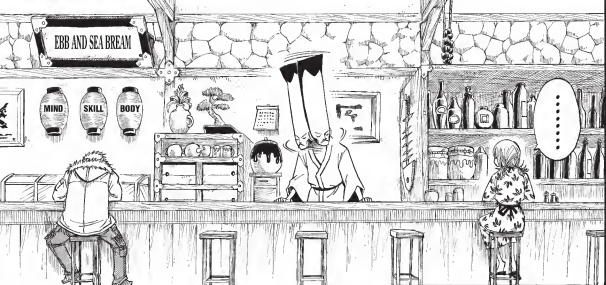
Pu-  
puu  
!!!

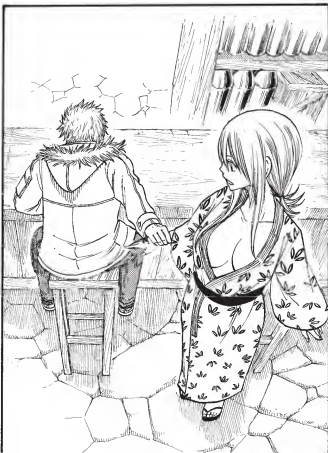
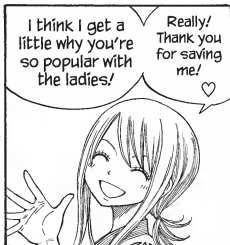
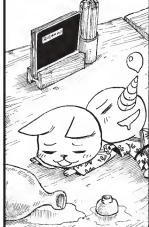
I-I-I-I  
knew this  
plot twist  
would  
come!!!

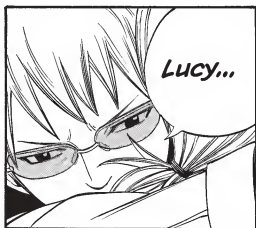
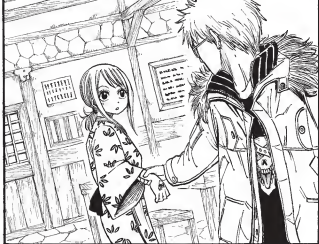
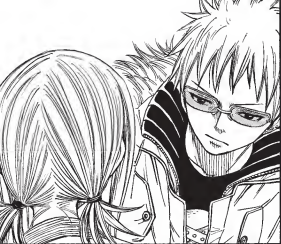


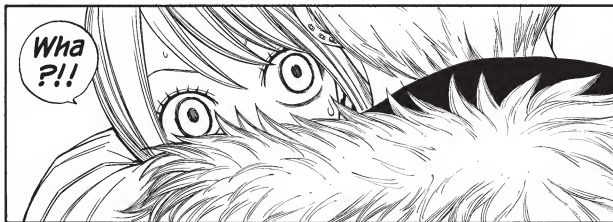
Huh?



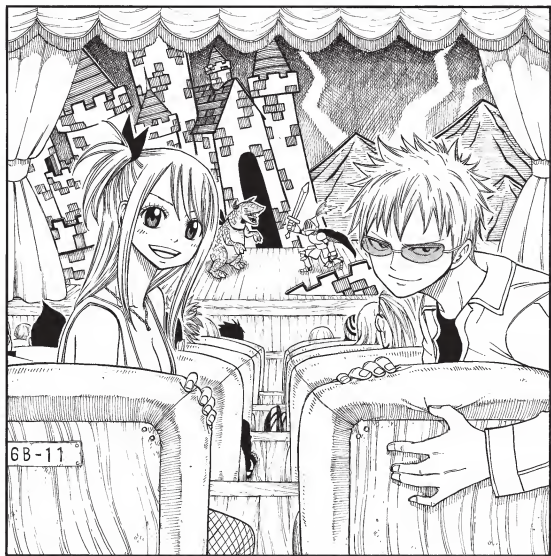




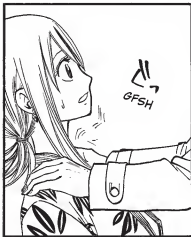
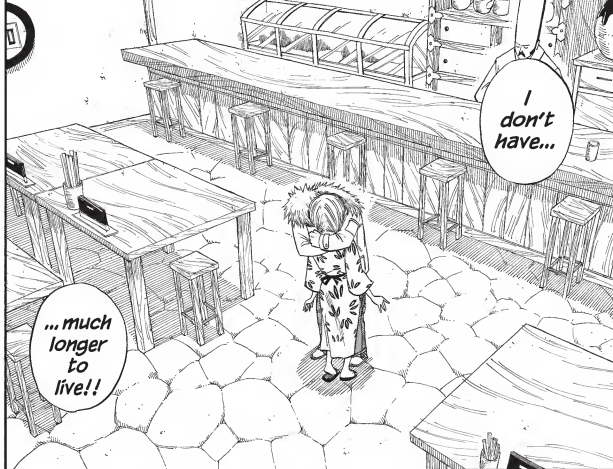




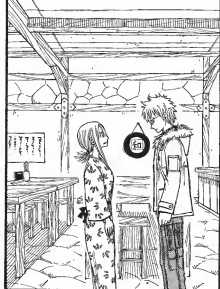
# FAIRY TAIL

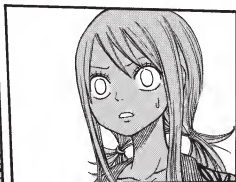


## Chapter 72: The Star That Will Never Return to the Sky



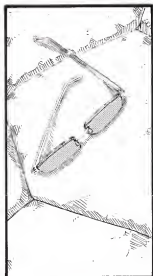








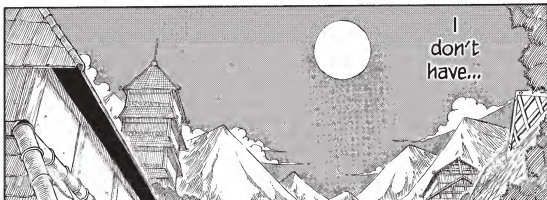
...I  
really  
hate  
jokes  
like  
that!!!



And I  
can't  
get Lucy  
involved  
in this!

What  
the  
heck  
am I  
doing?

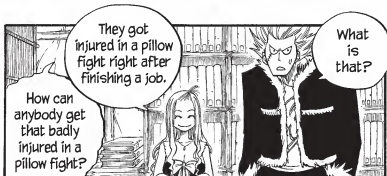
I  
can't get  
caught  
up in  
emotions...



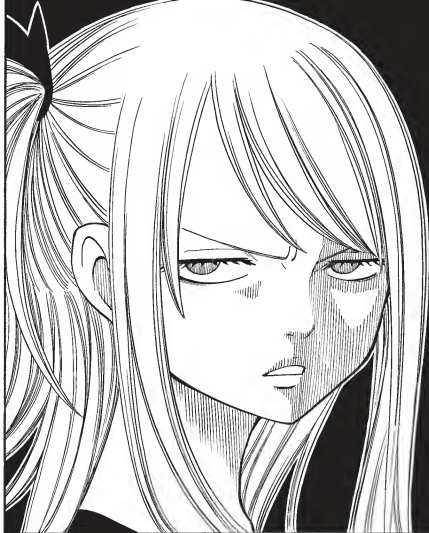
I  
don't  
have...



The  
next  
day at  
Fairy  
Tail...







*Cut  
the  
racket  
!*



フーん  
HUMPH

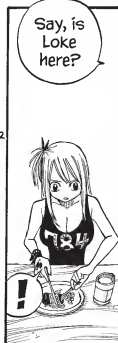
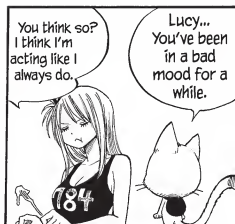
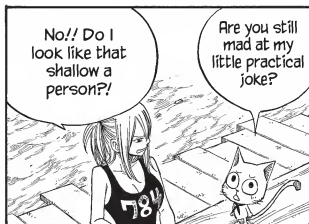
Lucy's  
not  
half  
bad!

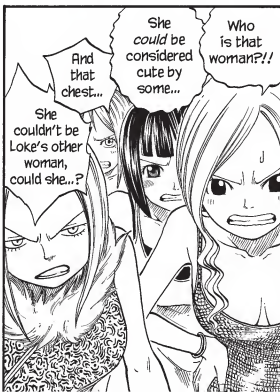
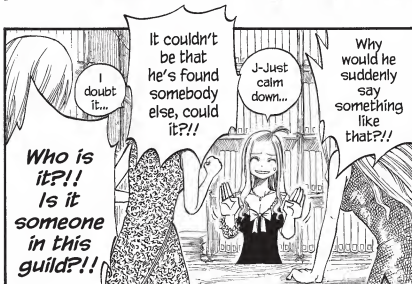
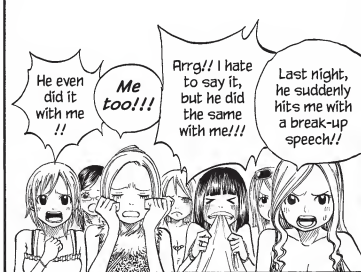
Ohh!! I've  
never seen  
anybody  
besides Erza  
stop those  
two!!

W-We  
deeply  
apologize.











Hmaa...

And that's  
what  
happened,  
Old Master  
Cru.

*Celestial Spirit*  
Southern Cross  
Constellation Cru

AKA: Old Master Cru

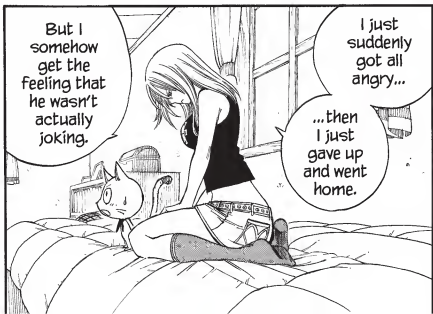


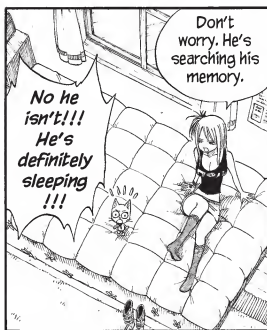
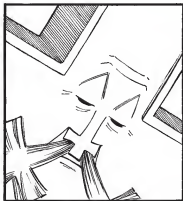
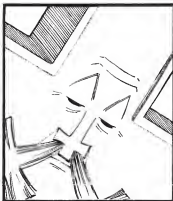
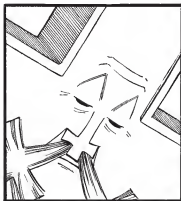
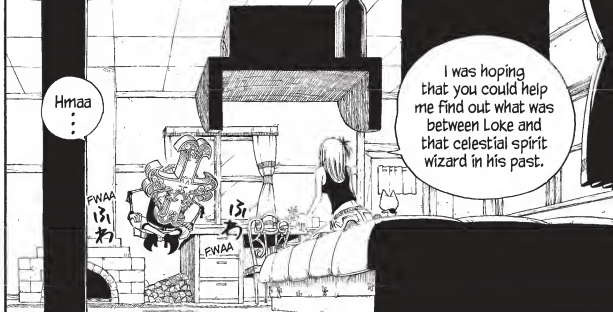
Hmaa...

But I  
somehow  
get the  
feeling that  
he wasn't  
actually  
joking.

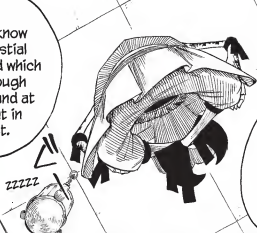
I just  
suddenly  
got all  
angry...

...then  
I just  
gave up  
and went  
home.



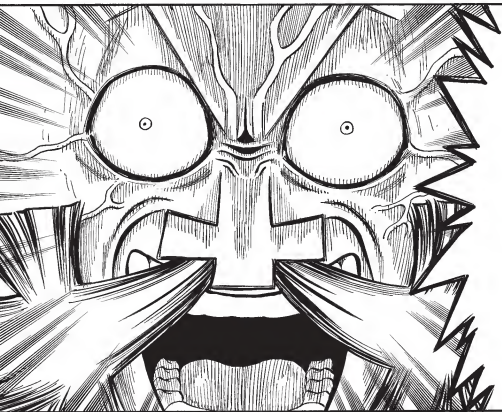


He would know  
which celestial  
wizard called which  
spirit through  
what gate and at  
what point in  
the past.



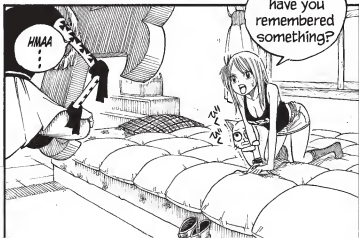
He knows all  
that has ever  
passed through  
the gates between  
the celestial world  
and the human  
world.

Old Master  
Cru is a  
specialist  
in celestial  
spirit lore.



D  
I  
A  
A  
A  
H  
H  
!!!!

Personal  
information is  
protected even  
in the celestial  
world, so I  
cannot be too  
specific.



Cru,  
have you  
remembered  
something?

HINAA  
...



...went by  
the name  
of Karen  
Lilica.

However,  
the celestial  
wizard  
with whom  
Loke had a  
relationship...

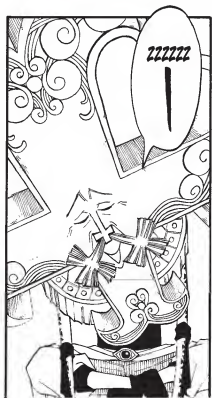
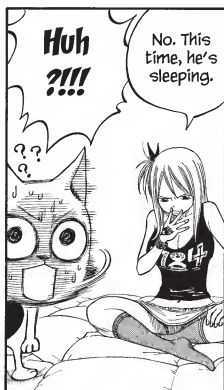
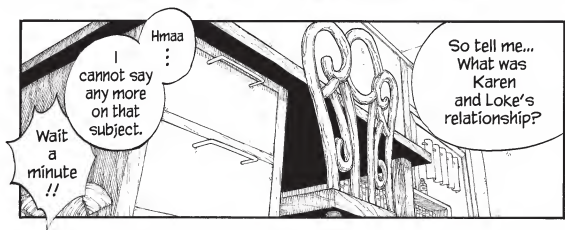
**Karen  
Lilica  
?!!!**

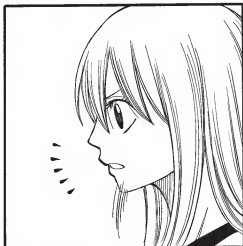
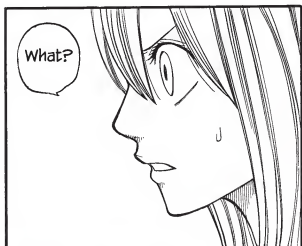
She was a real  
beauty, and even  
made the gatefold  
of *Sorcerer*  
magazine!!

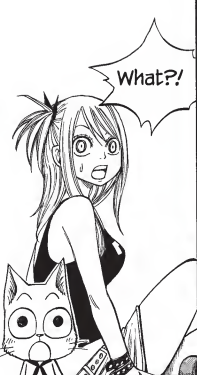
She's a  
really famous  
celestial  
wizard!!

You know  
of her,  
Lucy?









What?!



Loke  
left  
Fairy  
Tail  
!!!!



I was  
thinking that  
he's been  
acting a  
little strange  
lately.

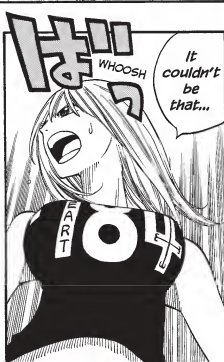


I don't  
know!!  
Everybody's  
looking for  
him!!!

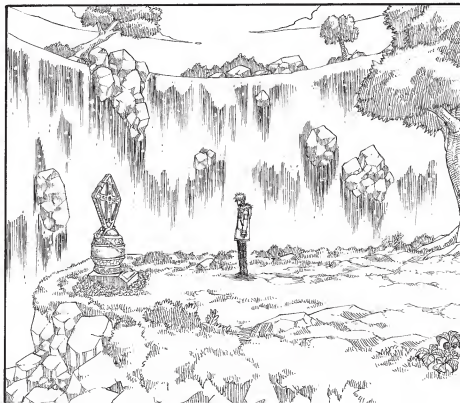
Wh-  
Why?!

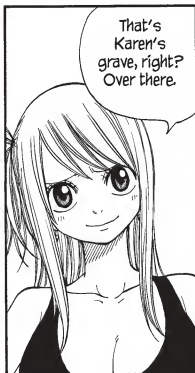
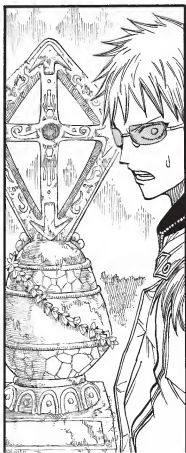
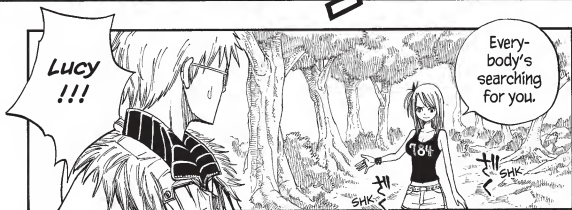
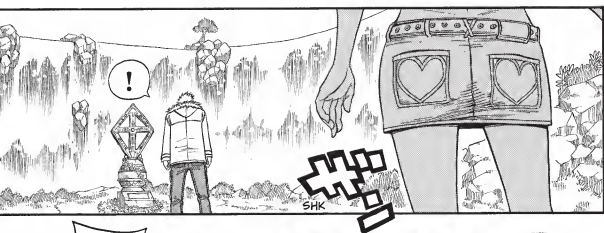


Hey!!  
Lucy!!!  
Where are  
you thinking  
of looking  
?!!



It  
couldn't  
be  
that...







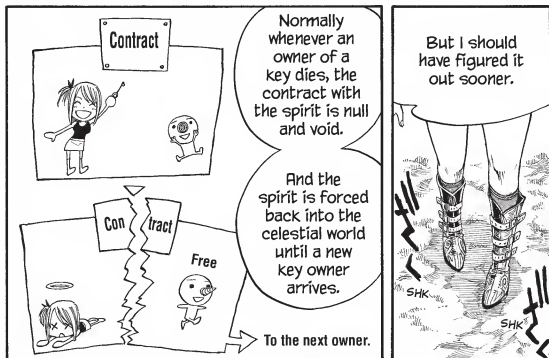
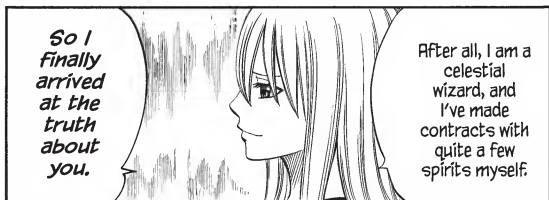
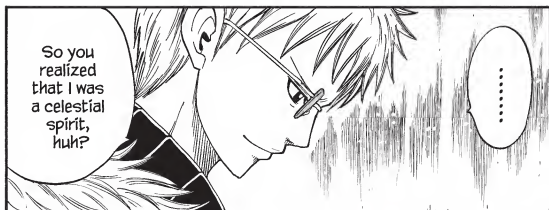
*Celestial  
Spirit  
Loke.*

No...

Your true  
name would be

*Leo of  
the Lion  
Palace.*





There must have been some reason for you not to return to the celestial world.

With Karen dead, your contract should have been broken, but you remained in the human world.

Being in the wrong world drains your life force...

...and eventually it ends in death.

Humans cannot live in the celestial world.

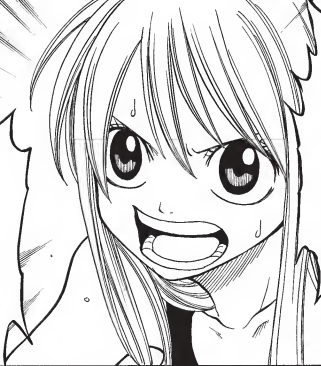
And celestial spirits can't live in the human world.

Yes... But I've reached my limit.

My power just won't come out anymore.

Three years?! One year should have been impossible !!

It's been three years.



*Tell me the  
reason  
you can't  
go back!!!  
I'll try to  
open your  
gate!!!*

*I...  
I may  
be able  
to find  
a way  
to save  
you!!!!*



?!  
I can't go  
back for the  
simplest  
reason.

What are you  
talking about?!  
If you don't do  
something, you'll  
really die!!



I can't  
be  
saved.

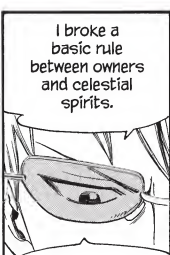


That  
is my pun-  
ishment.

And this  
death is  
something  
I can  
accept.



Banished...  
eternally...?



I broke a  
basic rule  
between owners  
and celestial  
spirits.

And as a result,  
I was banished  
eternally from  
the celestial  
world.



I am a  
treasonous  
celestial  
spirit.

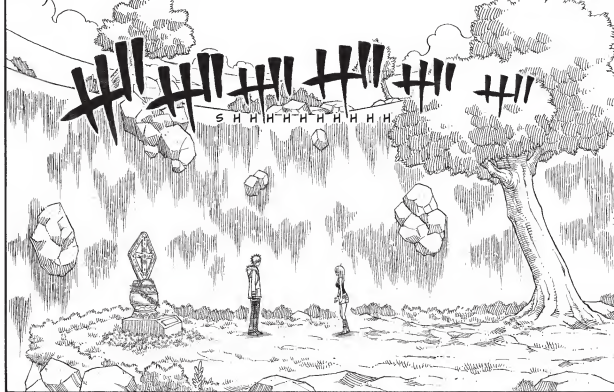
*Karen  
was my  
owner, and  
I killed  
her.*

# FAIRY TAIL



## Remarks

The finger ring magic he normally uses makes use of mass-produced magic items: lacrima crystal-powered finger rings. His real magic can only manifest when he is summoned as the celestial spirit Leo. It is believed that his love of women comes from the influence Karen had on him. She was able to manipulate even those humans closest to her, so he thought that he could use the same principles to be a success in the human world. The only reason he avoided Lucy was because of his guilt toward celestial wizards. As a woman, Lucy is very much his type.





It was three years ago...



Did she pick up a bunch of guys again?

CHATTER

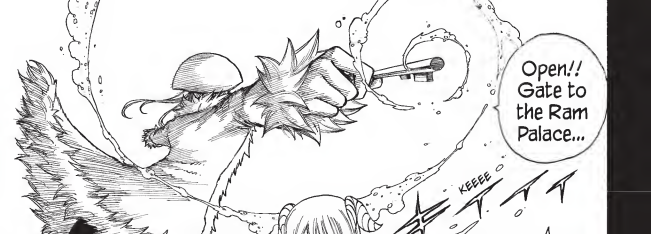
What's that supposed to be?

Did she pick up a bunch of guys again?

CHATTER

What's that supposed to be?





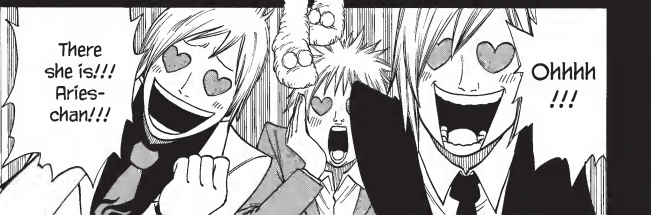
Open!!  
Gate to  
the Ram  
Palace...



You called  
...?

**Aries  
!!!**

Aries of the  
Ram Palace



There  
she is!!!  
Aries-  
chan!!!

Ohhhh  
!!!



I-I'm not a celestial spirit who is meant to entertain men...



Let's go have some fun, Aries-chan!!!

Okay!! Okay!!

B-But... I'm not...



I'm sick of this. You take care of these men.



Are you defying a direct order?!

Huh ?!

F-Forgive me!!!



A celestial spirit talking back to me?! I won't stand for it!!



Humph !

YEAH GREAT

ALL RIGHT WHOOP



Huh? She's my property! How I treat her is my business!!

Now, you know it's wrong to treat your celestial spirits badly, Karen-chan!



Hard on her? Celestial spirits don't have those kinds of feelings.

On that job you did a little while back, you used her as a shield and made her take a magical attack for you.

Treating her like a servant and maid every day, making her entertain the men you pick up.

But it's hard on Aries-chan.



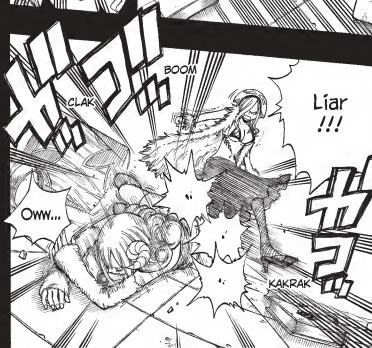
Celestial spirits are living creatures !!

Treat them as anything less, and next time you'll be the one who suffers!!





Don't bring  
your petty  
grievances to  
the Master  
ever again,  
got it?!!





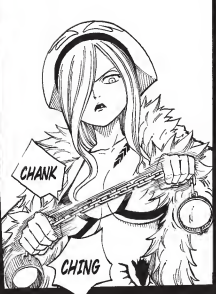


Here  
in the  
human  
world!!

You need  
punishment. You  
will stay in this  
world for seven  
days!!



Wh-What  
are you  
going to  
do with  
those...?



CHANK

CHING



But you  
should be  
worrying  
about  
yourself.

Yes, it  
will. Don't  
underesti-  
mate me.



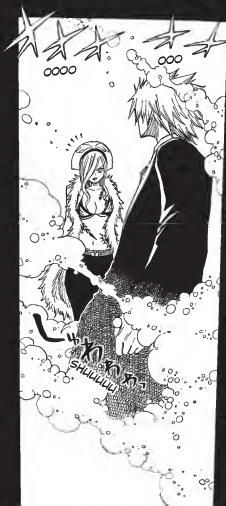
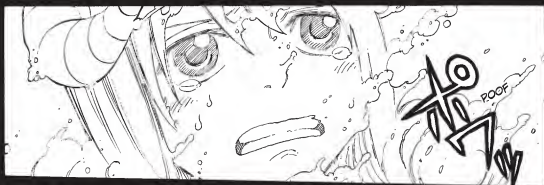
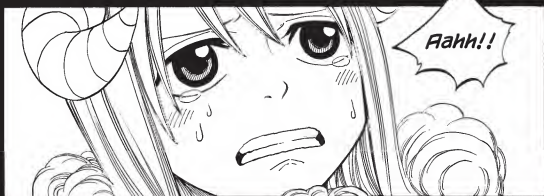
Seven days...  
Karen-sama,  
your magic  
won't hold  
out that  
long!!



...I  
wonder  
what will  
happen?  
Hm?

CHINK

If a  
celestial  
spirit  
stays in  
the human  
world for  
seven  
days...



She didn't run.

I forced her to change places with me.



You think you can run away?!! Don't even try!! I can just call you back anytime I want!!!



Leo  
?!!!

Leo of the  
Lion Palace  
(Loke)

Shape  
up,  
Karen.



What do  
you think  
you're doing,  
opening  
your own  
gate?!!



You're just  
a stupid  
celestial  
spirit! What  
can you do  
about it?!



But if you  
do anything  
more to  
Aries, I will  
not stand  
for it!!

I'm a  
celestial  
spirit meant  
for battle.  
I'm pretty  
tough.

I can even  
withstand  
a little  
bit of  
abuse.



I want your contracts with both Aries and myself made null and void.

I've come today to put it to you directly.



No celestial spirit is allowed to speak that way!!!

What did you say?!!!



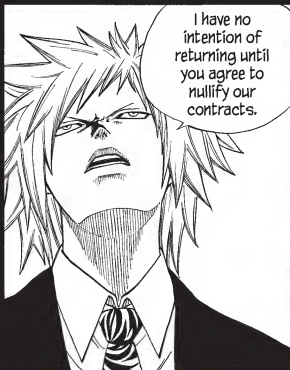
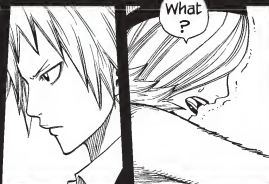
**Go back !!!**

You are a failure as a celestial wizard.

**Shut up!!!  
Shut your mouth!!!!**

Your terrible behavior makes me sick. The other spirits are praying that you never lay a finger on their keys.

**Close!!!  
Gate of the Lion Palace!!!!**



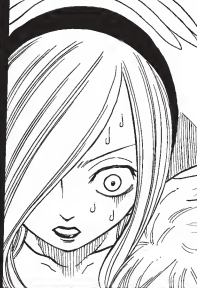




That would be a problem for you, wouldn't it?

As long as I remain in this world, you will not be able to summon any other spirits.

No celestial wizard can summon two celestial spirits at once.



I can stay any number of days without depending on your magic at all.

You think I haven't thought of that? I can use my own magic to stay here.



After maybe ten days, the owner's magic runs dry, and then you'll be forced back into the celestial world.

Heh heh... My magic isn't unlimited.



ぼたん

SLAM



I'll be waiting at the ruined church west of town.

When you've thought it over, come and see me.



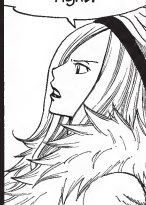


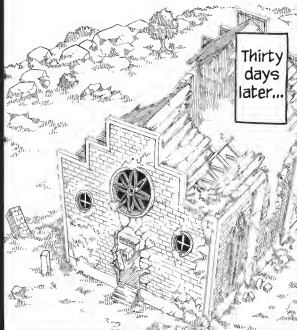


Don't make me laugh!!!  
You think I'd  
just throw  
away keys to  
two of the  
Twelve Golden  
Gates?!!

Are...  
you going...  
to release Aries  
and me...  
from our  
contracts...?

It's been ten  
days. You can't  
stay in the  
human world  
much longer,  
right?



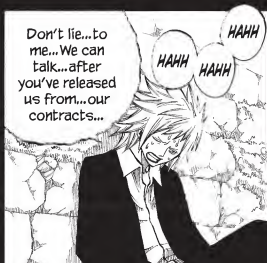


Thirty  
days  
later...



When  
you're  
ready to  
release  
us, come  
back...

Go  
away...



Don't lie...to  
me...We can  
talk...after  
you've released  
us from...our  
contracts...

HAHH  
HAHH

HAHH

I  
promise  
never to do  
anything to  
Aries again,  
okay?

So,  
come  
on!! Go  
back  
to your  
palace!!



Please!!!  
I can't  
go on  
any jobs  
without  
you!!



HAHH

HAHH

HAHH

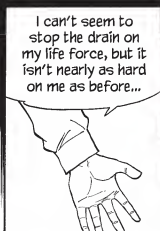
Once you're  
dead, I can  
summon Aries  
again!!!  
And you can  
bet I'll work  
her like a  
slave!!!

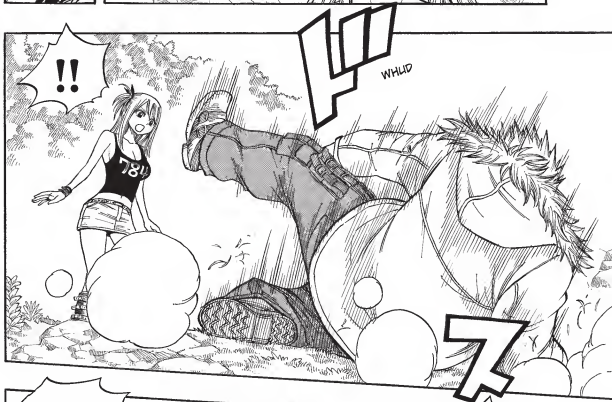
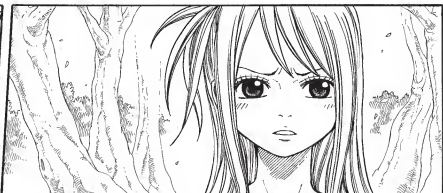
GAHH

GRITCH

Dammit!!!  
Then die!!!  
Die!!!!



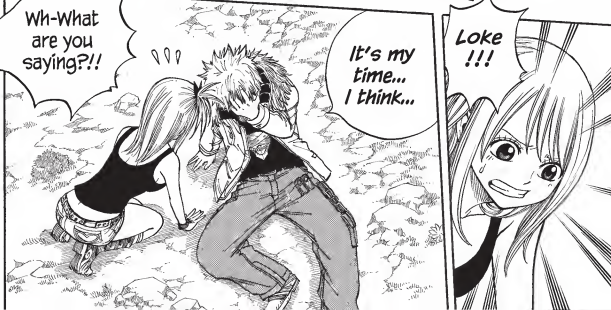


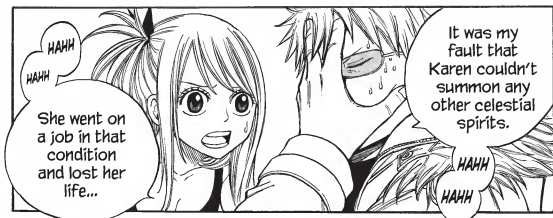


Wh-what  
are you  
saying?!!

It's my  
time...  
I think...

Loke  
!!!





HAHH  
HAHH

She went on a job in that condition and lost her life...

It was my fault that Karen couldn't summon any other celestial spirits.

HAHH

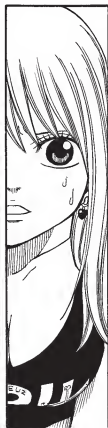
HAHH



It's the same as if I had murdered her myself.



Wait!!  
Hang in there!!!



And because of the events of that day, I was made unable to return to the celestial world.

All celestial spirits who disobey their masters' orders are rejected by the celestial world.

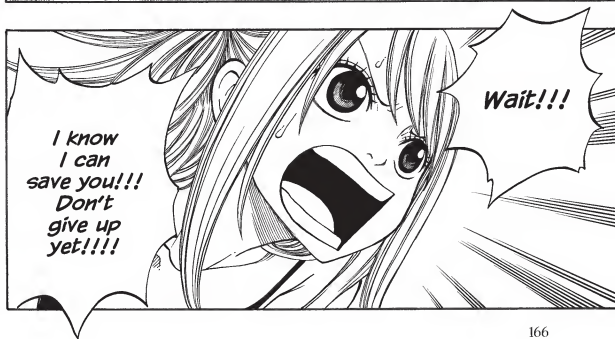
SSSS





Thank  
you,  
Lucy.

I'm happy  
I was able to  
meet a wonderful  
celestial wizard  
like you at  
the end.

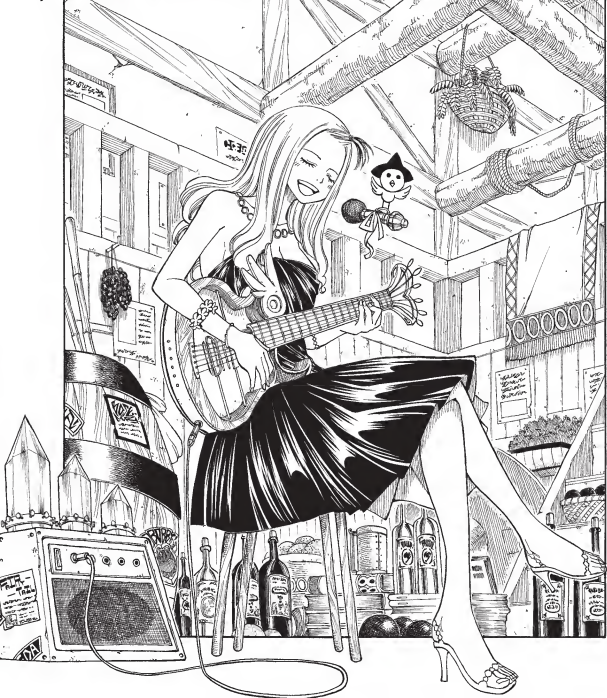


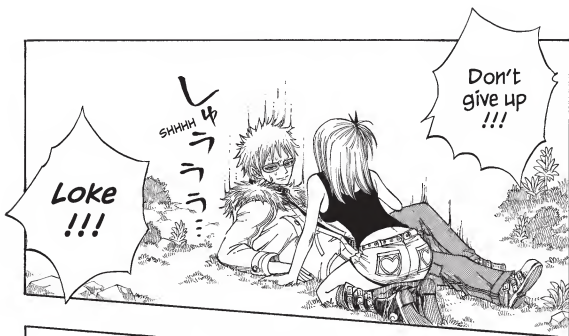
*I know  
I can  
save you!!!  
Don't  
give up  
yet!!!!*

**Wait!!!**



# FAIRYTAIL





## Chapter 74: Celestial Spirit King

*Her death  
was just an  
accident,  
right?!!!*

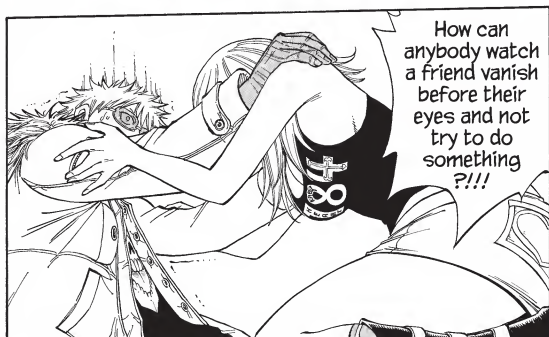
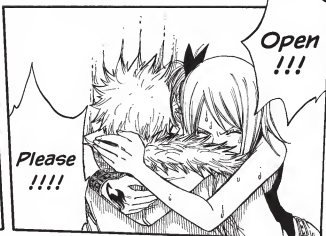
*But  
this  
isn't  
right  
!!!*

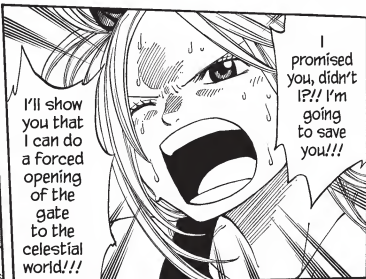
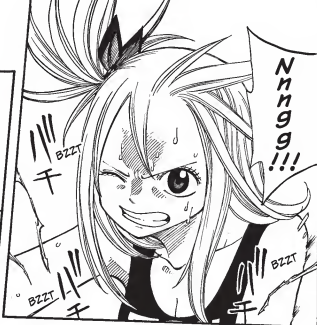
*That's  
not the  
same as  
actually  
murdering  
Karen!!!*

*Open  
!!!!  
Gate of  
the Lion  
Palace  
!!!!*

*Take  
Loke back  
to the  
celestial  
world!!!!*

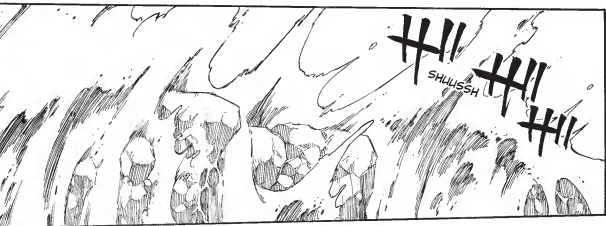
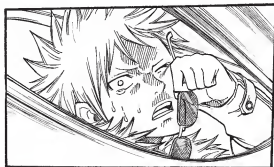
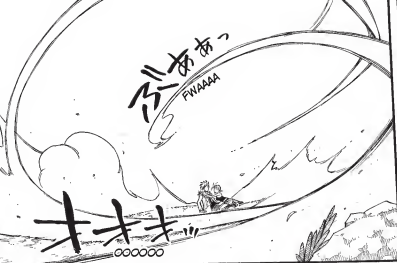


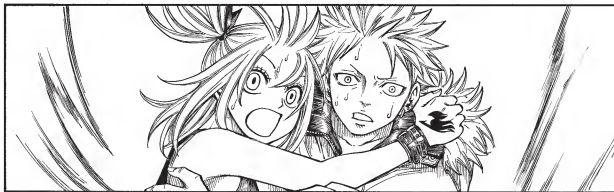
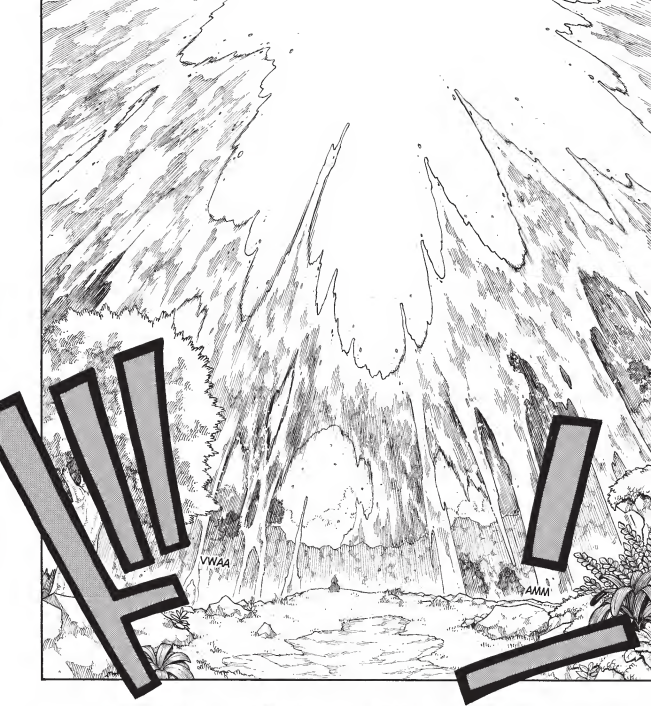


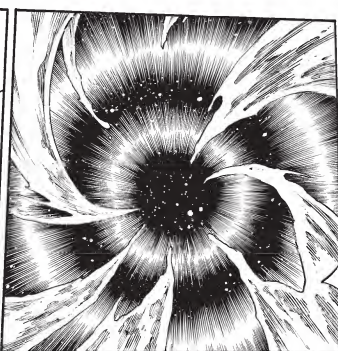
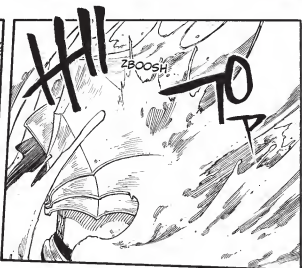
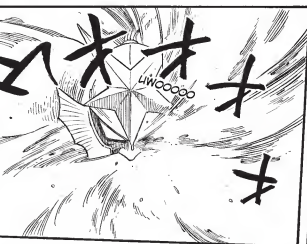








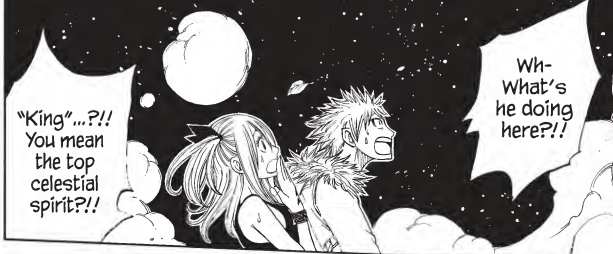






The  
celestial  
spirit  
king!!!!





"King"...?!!  
You mean  
the top  
celestial  
spirit?!!

Wh-  
What's  
he doing  
here?!!



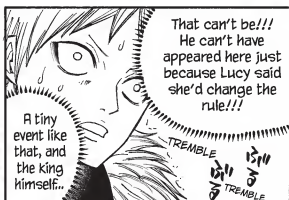
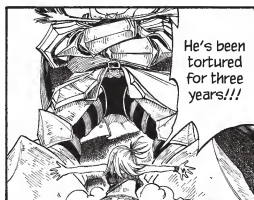
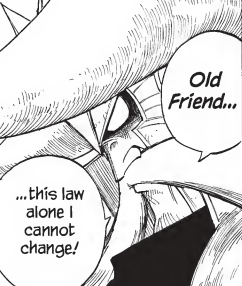
Old friend...  
Thou hast  
broken covenant  
with mankind  
and murdered  
thy key  
holder!!!



Thy act  
was indirect.  
However  
through that  
inaction, the  
same result did  
come to pass.

Thou hast  
been denied  
return  
to the  
celestial  
world.







**So  
listen to  
him, you  
bearded  
old  
fart!!!!**

**I'm not  
talking  
about  
"old  
friends  
!!!!"**

**I'm talking  
about a  
friend who  
is here!!!  
Now!!!  
Right  
before your  
eyes!!!**

**Because  
I won't  
accept any  
verdict  
but  
not  
guilty!!!!**

**It was just an  
unfortunate  
accident,  
right?!? What  
is this crime  
that Loke is  
supposed to have  
committed?!?**

**Mm!**

**I  
won't  
allow  
that!!!!**

**I want  
to pay  
for my  
sins!!!**

**I  
want to  
vanish  
this  
way!!!**

**That's  
enough,  
Lucy!!!**

**I'm  
not asking  
anybody to  
forgive  
me for  
this!!!**

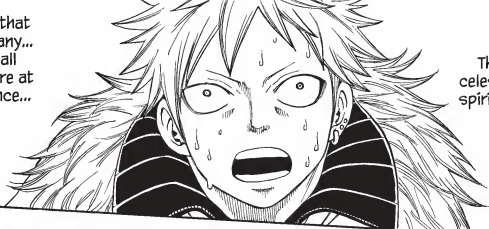
*It  
isn't  
a  
sin  
!!!!*

*It isn't  
a sin  
to look  
after  
your  
friends  
!!!!*

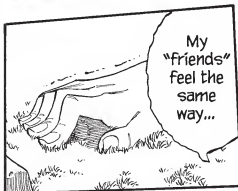


...that  
many...  
all  
here at  
once...

The  
celestial  
spirits...



Lucy  
!!!

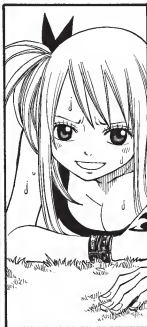
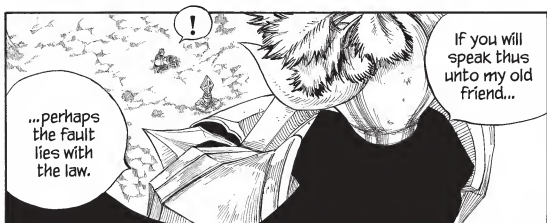


My  
"friends"  
feel the  
same  
way...



*If you're a  
celestial spirit  
too, then  
you should  
understand  
what Loke and  
Aries felt!!!!*

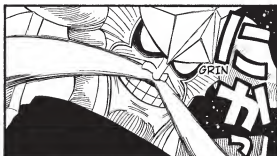






Leo... Thy return to the celestial world has thus been granted.

In recognition of these beautiful bonds of loyalty...  
...this case shall be judged as *an exception*.



You know, you're pretty cool for a bearded old fart!



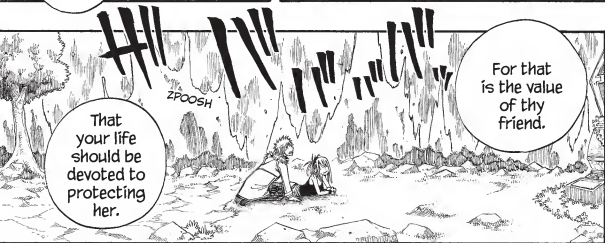
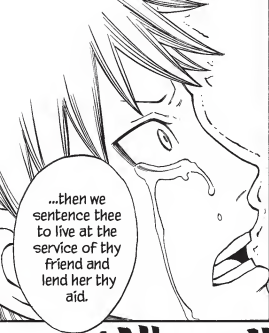
Wait, just a second...

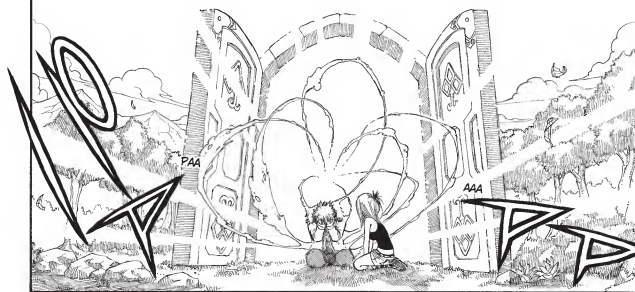
I...



You are pardoned. Give your thanks unto the paths of the stars!



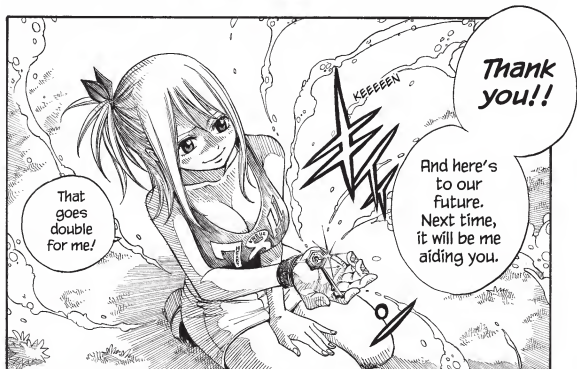




...but  
you've  
given  
me the  
courage  
to go on.



This may  
not take  
away the  
guilt I  
feel...



That  
goes  
double  
for me!

**Thank  
you!!**

And here's  
to our  
future.  
Next time,  
it will be me  
aiding you.

TO BE CONTINUED

# AFTERWORD

Man, am I busy!! Yeah, for a manga-ka that's a great thing to be able to say, but I'm way too busy!! If you want to know why, it's because I have another manga series—this time a monthly series. I've done this in the past, doing a monthly and a weekly series at the same time, but this time there are so many more pages required than last time! So the pace is so much different than before. By the way, when I was only doing a weekly manga, the amount of work equaled twenty pages of manga, twenty pages of *name* (the Japanese term for a rough-sketched story and dialogue), plus a couple of color pieces and small odd jobs. But the quantity of work I had last week was forty-three manga pages, sixty-nine pages of *name*, four color pages, and tons of those small, odd jobs. What the heck was that week all about?!! The only thing I can do is laugh about it!! Yeah, it was an unusually heavy week that included a short story, so the page numbers were artificially high, but even so, my regular work week is about twice as busy as before. Man! It's unbelievable!!

Recently I met another creator, and was asked what my motivation is for doing all of that work. I don't know how to answer that question. I never even considered the concept of motivation. Of course, I love manga, and that's why I draw it. But that's the basic assumption for any manga-ka. In my case, maybe it includes journeyman-style training. That probably sums it up. I've been doing this work for over ten years, but I can't seem to get good at drawing. (Ha ha!) Is it true that if I draw a lot, I'll become better? Normally, you'd think so...Anyway, I'm busy! Really busy! And that's what comes out of my mouth when I'm talking to the people around me, but inside I'm having so much fun, I can hardly contain it! I can draw a whole lot of manga! My manga will be read by a whole lot of people! That's probably my motivation, huh?



### From the Counter at Fairy Tail...



: All you readers out there, hello! ♥



: Hello! You're in a good mood today, Lucy!

**Lucy:** Sure! It's the ninth volume, and the stories were all about me!! It's like Volume 9 was drawn especially for me! ♥

**Mira:** That's what it means to be a heroine, I guess, huh? Well, while you're in such a good mood, let's get started on the questions.

### How many sets of armor total can Erza equip into?

**Lucy:** That question is pretty painful...er...I mean sharp!

**Mira:** The two of us can't answer it, so let's call in the woman herself. Introducing our special guest, Erza!



: Mm.

**Lucy:** Don't just say, "Mm"! If you don't come up with some greeting, you'll lose popularity points!

**Erza:** No...Well...I suppose I am not used to this...Uh...Hello.

**Mira:** So about the question we just heard. Erza, how many suits of armor do you have?

**Erza:** Many.



: Wait a second! None of the readers will really count that as an answer! You're going to have to do better than that to increase your point score!

**Mira:** What are popularity points exactly?

**Erza:** I have more than a hundred different types. I haven't counted them all myself, but I also count within their ranks dresses and kimono.

**Lucy:** Requiping is such a great concept! Dressing must be a breeze!

**Mira:** On to the next question.



### How long has Erza been in the Fairy Tail guild?



: Eight years. That brings back memories.



: By the way, I entered six years ago, bringing Elfman and Lisanna with me.

**Erza:** Natsu entered seven years ago, and Gray had entered even before I did.

**Lucy:** Huh? You guys have been in the guild a long time! It hasn't even been a year for me!

**Erza:** The story of my life before Fairy Tail is touched on in Volume 10.

**Mira:** I'm interested in learning about that!



: What was that? You just casually throw a preview of the next volume into the conversation?

**Mira:** Okay, the final question.

### Who is the heroine of Fairy Tail? Lucy or Erza?



**Mira:** Nobody cares who the "heroine" is, right?

**Lucy:** What do you mean "nobody"? I mean, people would automatically assume it's me, right?



: Well...I feel a little embarrassed being addressed as the heroine, but...Am I truly being looked upon in that fashion?

**Lucy:** Wait a minute!! What are you blushing for?!!

**Mira:** Certainly at first glance, one would think it's Lucy, but I hear that Erza has more fans.



: You're kidding!!

**Erza:** Is that so?

**Lucy:** Wait!! Just look at the cover of Volume 9! It's me!! All me!! I carry the entire cover all by myself!!

**Mira:** If you look closely, you see an awful lot of celestial spirits there too.

**Erza:** Lucy, did you know? They included a poster of me in *Weekly Magazine*.

**Lucy:** Waaaaaah!!

**Erza:** And that was only me. Heh heh...

**Lucy:** Waaaaaaaaaaaaah!

**Mira:** Well, none of this bickering will settle the matter. So why don't we ask the author directly?

----- And so... -----

**Mashima:** You're asking who the heroine is?

**Lucy:** It's me, right?! You love drawing pictures of me, don't you?!!

**Erza:** Do not forget that you drew a poster that was me and me alone.

**Mashima:** I give up. I think it's okay for the readers to decide who they think the heroine is for themselves.

**Mira:** Exactly! Nobody cares who it is! ♥

**Mashima:** Frankly, I think it's okay for the heroine to be Tomeko from Tokekko Restaurant.



: It is not okay!!





Send to Hiro Mashima, Kodansha Comics  
451 Park Ave. South, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10016

The Fairy Tail Guild d'Art is an explosion of fan art! Please send in your black-and-white art on large postcard stock! Those chosen to be published will get a signed mini poster! Make sure you write your real name and address on the back of your postcard!

# GUILD d'ART

By sending in letters or postcards you give us permission to give your name, address, postal code and any other information you include to the author as is. Please keep that in mind.

Rejection Corner

I don't want to be rejected!

You can't get everything you want!

Saitama Prefecture, Katsuka Goro



Shizuoka Prefecture, Junion Naitori



Miyazaki Prefecture, Sayuri



Ibaragi Prefecture, Masahiro Ishizaki

▶ Eerie! By the way, it's Bippo. I like Bippo. Bippo makes a nice girl's name.



Miyagi Prefecture, Shion



Shizuoka Prefecture, Kahori Matsushima



Hyogo Prefecture, Puririn

▶ Happy New Year's to you! And thanks for all of the New Year's cards!

▶ Wow, that's cute! Is she doing cosplay as a fairy?

▶ These appeared in a limited edition publication. Actually they're based on authors of mine.



Guma Prefecture, Keyo



Hyogo Prefecture, Kōsuke Shimoda



Niigata Prefecture, Tomohiko Enamoto

▶ As Ezra in a school uniform huh? Use a postcard with a card I can use to tell you the story! The card.



Iwate Prefecture, Kōji Minamizaki



Hokkaido, Seiryu Tanaka



Chiba Prefecture, Koharu

▶ This one's very cute!! And well done!

▶ A fan from my previous work. I'm so happy I could cry!

▶ Thank you!! Keep on tooting for me, please!



Iwate Prefecture, Sena Minamizaki



Aichi Prefecture, Chitō



Ishikawa Prefecture, Natsu vs. Haru

▶ Wow! This one has some great artistic sense!

▶ Are you a part of the Glory Character Fan Club? Maybe not huh?

▶ And there's tomorrow!! One came!! I can't actually find the one I like but I'll try to find it for you!! (The kid)



America. *Fairy Tail*, currently being serialized in *Shōnen Magazine*, is his latest creation.

# Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more art than science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction in our translation of the work, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

## General Notes: Wizard

In the original Japanese version of *Fairy Tail*, you'll find panels in which the English word "wizard" is part of the original illustration. So this translation has taken that as its inspiration and translated the word *madōshi* as "wizard." But *madōshi*'s meaning is similar to certain Japanese words that have been borrowed by the English language, such as judo (the soft way) and kendo (the way of the sword). *Madō* is the way of magic, and *madōshi* are those who follow the way of magic. So although the word "wizard" is used in the original dialogue, a Japanese reader would be likely to think not of traditional Western wizards such as Merlin or Gandalf, but of martial artists.

## Names

Hiro Mashima has graciously agreed to provide official English spellings for just about all of the characters in *Fairy Tail*. Because this version of *Fairy Tail* is the first publication of most of these spellings, there will inevitably be differences between these spellings and some of the fan interpretations that may have spread throughout the Web or in other fan circles. Rest assured that the spellings contained in this book are the spellings that Mashima-sensei wanted for *Fairy Tail*.

## Bento, page 34

The traditional boxed lunch of Japan usually features a main course on a bed of rice and includes pickled veggies, salad, cooked egg, and other foods along with sweet beans for dessert. Women are known for waking up early and fixing elaborate bento boxes. Single girls prepare them for themselves or their boyfriends, while mothers fix bento boxes for their children's school lunches.



## Feminist, page 36

In America, the word “feminist” has taken on nuances of a radical activist for women’s rights. In Japan, the connotations are much broader, spanning the range from activist to someone who simply likes women.



## Passionate Fish, page 45

The title of the top book the librarian is holding was written in Japanese, *Jōnetsu-gyo*, which means “Passionate Fish” or “Passion Fish.” One might assume that, as translator, I would use the name of the movie, *Passion Fish*, for the translation, but it did not seem appropriate in this instance. When the movie came out, the Japanese title was not in Japanese, but instead used the English words in Japanese *katakana* characters, *Passhon Fisshu*. Since Mashima-sensei didn’t use the proper name for the movie title, it seemed wrong for the translation to use the proper title of the movie either.



## Mabô and Yanbô, page 66

There are many types of nicknames in Japanese, and this is one example. One takes the first syllable of the name and adds *bô* to the end (or *nbô* depending on phonics and the whim of the one assigning the nickname). This is generally a nickname used by men for male friends, and although it is still heard now and again, the popularity of that nickname declined decades ago. The use of the nicknames indicate that Master Makarov and Yajima are either old, very close friends, or former classmates.



## Ramen, chashu pork, page 66

The Chinese barbecue pork, *char siu*, is pronounced *chashu* in Japan, and the most common dish associated with *chashu* is ramen. One can order *chashu* Ramen as a menu item in most ramen restaurants/Chinese restaurants in Japan, or one can order extra *chashu* to be added to other ramen dishes such as Miso Ramen. *Chashu* consists of thin slices of pork (usually pork shoulder), and one usually only receives two or three slices per ramen dish.



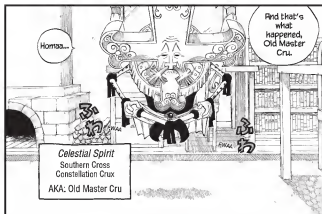
## Ebb and Sea Bream, page 119

There is a phrase in Japanese, *isshin-ittai*, which means “ebb and flow.” Of course it refers to the tides, but it also indicates the ups and downs of one’s life. But in Japanese pun-loving fashion, here the normal *kanji* for *tai* has been replaced with a different *kanji*, also pronounced *tai*, but meaning “sea bream.” Not the easiest pun to try to translate, but since English has few uses for the word “ebb” in any other context than “ebb and flow,” juxtaposing “ebb and” with “sea bream” gives one the idea that someone is trying to make a joke—no matter how less-than-hilarious the pun was in this English translation.



## Hmaa, page 133

This is simply one of those mumbling vocalizations that old men make in between sentences and phrases. I left the sound the same as in the Japanese.





## Memphis Ring, page 150

The Memphis Ring is a magic item that can be found in the Japanese massively multi-player role-playing game (MMRPG), Strugarden Neo. The item is a finger ring with enough power to defeat a boss in the game.



## Old Friend, page 178

In Japanese, the celestial spirit king used the term *furuki tomo*, which is a rather archaic way of saying "old friend." I was unable to find any other instances where this phrase was used in Japanese history or literature, so I can't claim to be an expert in the nuances of this phrase. Only that he used it as a way of saying "you" in the Japanese—even to Lucy who he had just met. The rest of his speech was rather archaic as well, and so the translation used "thees," "thous," and similar language to convey that concept.





Photo of the Mashima Group and  
Yoshikawa Group combined.

I've been hanging out with Miki Yoshikawa-sensei (I usually follow her name with "-chan" but...) for more than five years. She has been a good friend at times, and at other times a good rival. Although she started in manga after me, she's a well-respected member of my circle of friends. Since we're both so busy, we are only able to hang out together once or twice a year, but during the times we can get both of our groups together, it's really fun! On the day of this picture, we were playing video games from the morning on....What a great group of adults, huh? Ah ha ha ha!! They were really fun people!

—Hiro Mashima

# Honorifics Explained

Throughout the Kodansha Comics books, you will find Japanese honorifics left intact in the translations. For those not familiar with how the Japanese use honorifics and, more important, how they differ from American honorifics, we present this brief overview.

Politeness has always been a critical facet of Japanese culture. Ever since the feudal era, when Japan was a highly stratified society, use of honorifics—which can be defined as polite speech that indicates relationship or status—has played an essential role in the Japanese language. When addressing someone in Japanese, an honorific usually takes the form of a suffix attached to one's name (example: "Asuna-san"), is used as a title at the end of one's name, or appears in place of the name itself (example: "Negi-sensei," or simply "Sensei").

Honorifics can be expressions of respect or endearment. In the context of manga and anime, honorifics give insight into the nature of the relationship between characters. Many English translations leave out these important honorifics and therefore distort the feel of the original Japanese. Because Japanese honorifics contain nuances that English honorifics lack, it is our policy at Kodansha not to translate them. Here, instead, is a guide to some of the honorifics you may encounter in Kodansha Comics.

- san:** This is the most common honorific and is equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., or Mrs. It is the all-purpose honorific and can be used in any situation where politeness is required.
- sama:** This is one level higher than "-san" and is used to confer great respect.
- dono:** This comes from the word "tono," which means "lord." It is an even higher level than "-sama" and confers utmost respect.

**-kun:** This suffix is used at the end of boys' names to express familiarity or endearment. It is also sometimes used by men among friends, or when addressing someone younger or of a lower station.

**-chan:** This is used to express endearment, mostly toward girls. It is also used for little boys, pets, and even between lovers. It gives a sense of childish cuteness.

**Bozu:** This is an informal way to refer to a boy, similar to the English terms "kid" and "squirt."

### **Sempai/**

**Senpai:** This title suggests that the addressee is one's senior in a group or organization. It is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to their upperclassmen as "sempai." It can also be used in the workplace, such as when a newer employee addresses an employee who has seniority in the company.

**Kohai:** This is the opposite of "sempai" and is used toward underclassmen in school or newcomers in the workplace. It connotes that the addressee is of a lower station.

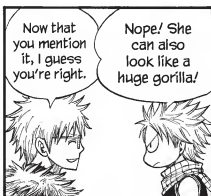
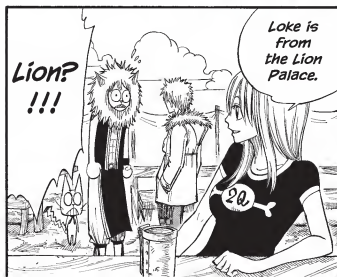
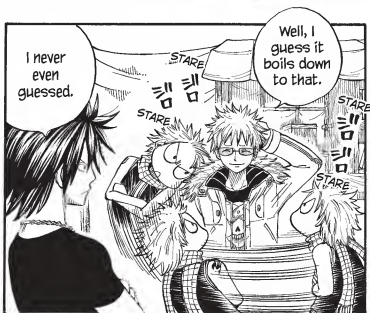
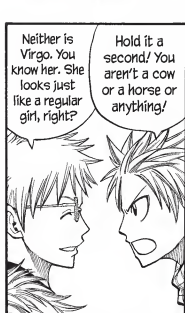
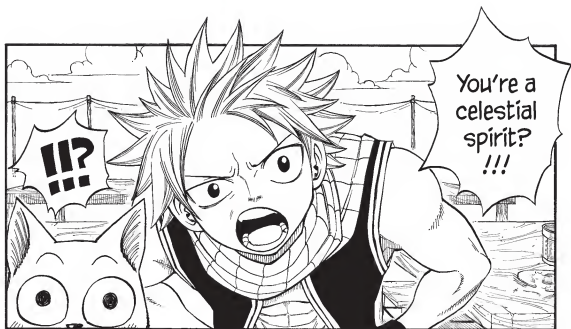
**Sensei:** Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.

**-[blank]:** This is usually forgotten in these lists, but it is perhaps the most significant difference between Japanese and English. The lack of honorific means that the speaker has permission to address the person in a very intimate way. Usually, only family, spouses, or very close friends have this kind of permission. Known as *yobisute*, it can be gratifying when someone who has earned the intimacy starts to call one by one's name without an honorific. But when that intimacy hasn't been earned, it can be very insulting.

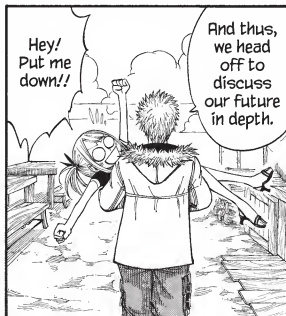
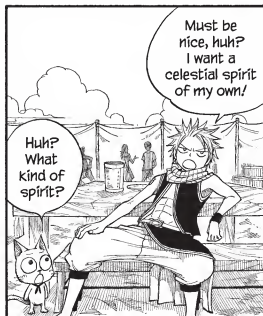
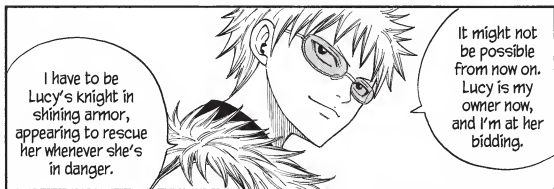
## Preview of Volume 10

We're pleased to present you with a preview from volume 10, now available from Kodansha Comics. Check out our Web site ([www.kodanshacomics.com](http://www.kodanshacomics.com)) for more details!











You can go home now.

Absolutely true! Celestial spirits are meant for love!

Celestial wizards don't use their spirits as punching bags or sparring partners!!

Here I am, knowing everything a guy needs to know to be a dragon slayer! But what's the point if I don't have a dragon to fight with?!

A dragon!! What else?!!



Here!



Wait just a minute!



These are tickets to a resort hotel I intended to go to with my girlfriends, but now...

I can't spend long amounts of time in the human world anymore...



What are these?



And  
so...

HYAAAA!!

...we've  
come here  
to have  
some  
fun! Here  
at Akane  
Beach.



*Fairy Tail* volume 9 is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the products of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is entirely coincidental.

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type of reading experience.

To start at the *beginning*,  
go to the *end*!

That's right! Authentic manga is read the traditional Japanese way—from right to left, exactly the opposite of how American books are read. It's easy to follow: Just go to the other end of the book and read each page—and each panel—from right side to left side, starting at the top right. Now you're experiencing manga as it was meant to be!